

# Florida

Florida State Board of Conservation  
Marine Laboratory  
St. Petersburg, Florida

GRASS, BASS AND BUGS  
SAFE OR SORRY?

Fishing · Hunting  
· Conservation ·

# WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER, 1959

*The Florida Magazine for all Sportsmen*

25 CENTS



# FLORIDA WILDLIFE'S

## Fishing Citation

"for that BIG ONE that DIDN'T get away"

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All fish must be taken from the fresh waters of the state of Florida, as defined by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Fish must be caught on conventional fly, spinning, or bait-casting tackle, with artificial or live bait, in the presence of at least one witness.

The catch must be weighed and recorded at a fishing camp or tackle store within the state by the owner, manager, or an authorized agent of the respective establishment.

Application for a Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation must be made within 10 days of the date fish was caught. Application must be made on the prescribed form as shown on this page. (Requests for additional forms should be addressed to: Florida Wildlife, Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.)

Citation, showing recorded data of the catch, will be mailed to the applicant upon receipt of application form that has been properly filled out and signed.

Florida Wildlife Fishing Citations are available without charge, to any and all subscribers to Florida Wildlife Magazine, and their immediate families, who catch any of the following fresh-water game fish of the prescribed size requirements:

SPECIES	
LARGEMOUTH BASS	SHELLCRACKER
8 pounds or larger	2 pounds or larger
CHAIN PICKEREL	BLACK CRAPPIE
4 pounds or larger	2 pounds or larger
BLUEGILL (BREAM)	RED BREAST
1 1/2 pounds or larger	1 pound or larger



CUT OUT AND SAVE THIS APPLICATION BLANK

### APPLICATION FOR FLORIDA WILDLIFE FISHING CITATION

The Editor, FLORIDA WILDLIFE Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Please send me the Florida Wildlife Fishing Citation with the inscribed data listed below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Species of Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Length \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Tackle, Bait Used \_\_\_\_\_

Where Caught \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Catch Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

Registered, Weighed by \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Applicant)

Published monthly by the  
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION  
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Dedicated to the  
Conservation, Restoration, Protection of Our Game And Fish

BILL HANSEN, Editor

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ROSE TALLAHASSEE

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**SPECIAL DEER HUNTS**

**OPEN TO ALL BOW AND ARROW HUNTERS**

**REGULAR HUNTING LICENSE AND SPECIAL PERMIT REQUIRED**

**OCALA ARCHERY HUNT**  
OPEN SEASON  
**OCTOBER 10 THRU 18**  
HUNTING PERMITTED EVERY DAY

**EGLIN AIR BASE ARCHERY HUNT**  
OPEN SEASON OCTOBER 17 THRU NOVEMBER 1  
HUNTING PERMITTED EVERY DAY

**SPECIAL BEAR HUNTS**

**OSCEOLA NATIONAL FOREST**  
OPEN SEASON  
**OCTOBER 5 THRU OCTOBER 30**

**APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST**  
OPEN SEASON  
**SEPTEMBER 21 THRU OCTOBER 30**

CHECK WITH GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION OFFICES IN TALLAHASSEE, OCALA, LAKE CITY OR PANAMA CITY FOR COMPLETE HUNTING RULES

## ARCHERY HUNTS

## General Regulations

1. Guns, pistols, or other firearms will not be permitted on the hunt area.
  2. Bows must be capable of casting a 1 oz. arrow a minimum of 150 yards. Arrows shall have well-sharpened steel broadhead-blades of not less than  $\frac{7}{8}$  nor more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches width.
  3. No person shall load or shoot a bow from any moving automobile or other vehicle.
  4. Game showing evidence of having been shot with a firearm shall be considered illegal game.
  5. Legal game can be transported only during the special archery season and for a period of three days immediately following the latest open archery season.
  6. No person shall have in his possession or under his control any type of poisoned arrow or any arrow with explosive tip.
  7. No dogs allowed on the hunt area during the special archery season.
  8. Any rule or regulation that governs the operation of hunts on the Ocala or Eglin Wildlife Management Area and is not in conflict with preceding special archery hunt rules shall be in effect on the special archery hunts.
  9. Use of Cross Bows Prohibited.

## OCALA HUNT

**Hunt Area:** Beginning at Davenport Landing and proceeding west and south to Eureka Bridge, the boundary is the Oklawaha River; proceeding east from Eureka Bridge, the boundary is Forest Road 9 (State Rd. 316) to its intersection with Forest Road 65; proceeding north from this intersection, the boundary follows Forest Road 65 to the intersection of the River Road; thence northwest on the River Road to Davenport Landing.

**Open Season:** October 10 to October 18, hunting permitted every day.

**Legal Game:** Deer, turkey, quail, squirrel, rabbit, bear, and unprotected wildlife. No hunter can take

**THE COVER**—September 5, marks the start of the first phase of Florida's 1959 - 60 hunting season when members of the Rail and Gallinule (Marsh Hen) family become legal game for the scattergun clan. (see page 1). Largest of the fleet rail-birds are the King Rail, upper left; the Clapper Rail, right center; and the Virginia Rail, lower left. Number game for the scattergun clan. (see page 5). Largest of the fleet rail-birds are the King is essentially a bird of the inland, fresh water marshes. The Virginia Rail, although not too widely known, is far from uncommon especially along the Gulf Coast sections.

more than two of any combination of deer and bear. Game taken on this hunt will be considered part of the hunter's annual bag and the deer and turkey must be tagged as provided in State Regulations.

**Permit:** A special archery hunt permit costing \$5.00 will be required in addition to regular license requirements. Sale of this permit will be handled by the Hunt Supervisor at Hunt Headquarters and by the County Judge of Marion County.

**Special Hunt Rules:** Hunters must check in and out of check stations located at Hunt Headquarters at Junction of Forest Road 88 and State Road 316. Hunters may check in beginning at 8:00 A.M. October 9 and must check out by 6:00 P.M. October 18.

#### EGLIN HUNT

**Hunt Area:** As designated by USAF officials and lying within the area bounded on the south by U.S. 98 and St. Rd. 20, on the north by the Yellow River, and U.S. 90, on the west by St. Rd. 87, and on the east by St. Rd. 83.

**Open Season:** October 17 to November 1, hunting permitted every day.

**Legal Game:** Wild hogs and all other legal game except turkey, bear, beaver, alligator, otter, panther, and unprotected wildlife. Deer and wild hogs taken on this hunt will be considered part of the hunter's annual bag and deer must be tagged as provided by state regulations and with Air Force tag (APH 3273) before being removed from kill location.

**Permit:** A special Archery Hunt permit costing \$3.00 or a Composite Permit costing \$5.00 will be required in addition to the regular license requirements. Sale of this permit will be handled by the Air Force through the Forestry Section at Jackson Guard Station, Niceville, Florida, on Florida Highway No. 85.

**Check Stations:** Hunters must check in and out of the hunt area every day through Jackson Guard Station, Niceville, Florida.

## MARSH HEN and DOVE HUNTING DATES

**F**LORIDA'S TWO-PHASE migratory dove hunting season will open October 10, in 54 counties and November 26 in all 67 counties of the state. The new dove regulations were formulated and adopted by the Commission at Tallahassee July 22, after prolonged studies of biological factors pertaining to dove, and the sentiments expressed by 3,626 hunters in a recent mail ballot.

Hunting will be allowed for 23 consecutive half-days October 10 through November 1, and 42 consecutive half-days November 26 through January 6. Daily bag limit for dove will be ten.

In response to expressions of hunter sentiment, the Commission ruled that there will be no early dove hunting in Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Charlotte, Glades, Lee, Hendry, Collier, Okeechobee, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, and Brevard counties, and that portion of Putnam county east of the St. Johns River, and that portion of Franklin County known as Alligator Point.

The dove season will be open state-wide during the second phase hunt November 26 through January 6.

In setting other rules for migratory game, the Commission provided a hunting season on rail and gallinule September 5 through November 8, with a daily bag limit of 15, including sora rail. Woodcock season was set December 12 through January 10, with a daily bag of four. Tentatively the season for ducks, geese, and coot was set for November 26 through January 15, and snipe for December 12 through January 10.

The seasons and bag in relation to duck, geese, coot and snipe, as set by the Florida Commission, are tentative pending final establishment of season framework and bag limits by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Information received from the northern states and Canada indicates that waterfowl production will be poor, which may result in substantial reduction in the waterfowl season nationwide. ●





## WILDLIFE BALANCE WHEEL

By DENVER STE. CLAIRE

**R**EPORTS FROM our campers attending this year's encampment indicate that every one had a wonderful time plus all kinds of new experiences and fun.

We have received so many nice letters from parents and campers. It makes all of us very proud to know that you like our camp and want to return again next year.

We introduced many new items this year at camp. Our camp shuttle service was greatly improved by the addition of a bus. We can now transport twenty-four passengers and their equipment at one time.

The bus is painted a dark forest green and has yellow lettering reading "Youth Conservation Camp."

So another dream comes true. We've wished for a bus since 1956. Now we can proudly point to our own. The real special thing about purchasing this bus is that the young people of the League decided to buy it for the Camp.

We are proud of our young people. The very same group voted to buy our new 17-foot Grumman canoes for camp use. They contend that you never have anything unless you make a very determined effort to obtain it.

It makes you feel good inside to know that these young people, growing into adulthood, are to be our future leaders in this great country of ours.

Many of these young people have grown with the program. Some of the members of clubs around the state have been with us six, seven, and eight years.

All of them have worked together making this program worthy and inviting to young people all over the State.

Our League President, Tommy Christopher from Stuart, Florida, has been with us six years. This past summer he was re-elected President for a second consecutive term. I asked him why he wanted a second term and he answered, "To take care of a lot of unfinished business." You can't stop young men like that. The United States of America has a great future indeed.

### Bartow Junior Conservation Club

My guess at this writing is that of the 26 Junior Conservation Clubs in the state, the Bartow Club will have sent the most boys from any club to camp at one time. Eighteen youngsters between the ages of 8-12 arrived for one week of camping, July 12-18.

If any club tops this, I'll let you



know but from here it looks like a record.

Mr. B. L. Timmons of Bartow, who is their advisor, is to be heartily recommended for his untiring efforts toward the training and development of these boys. To the parents and others who assisted in transporting these boys to camp, our sincere appreciations.

### Camp Staff

I want very much at this time to extend sincere thanks to the camp staff who worked so hard this year to carry out many of the program innovations introduced in camp this year.

To these members of the staff then, a sincere "thank you" from all of



Photo by Jim Raed

Nature Director, Chuck Bindner, keeps bear cubs in check while youthful outdoorsmen serve milk to the baby bruins at the Lake Eaton Youth Conservation Camp. Names for the two mascots will be selected from entries submitted by campers during the 1959 encampment.

us in the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. We salute your efforts:

Bernard Dykes, Camp Director; Chuck Bindner, Nature Director and Assistant to the Director; John Christie, Waterfront Director and Assistant to the Director; Evelyn Duggar, R. N., Camp Nurse; Mrs. Virginia Westphal, Chief Cook; Mrs. Ruby Jones, Assistant Cook; Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Kenan, Camp Custodians; Peter Ripley, Earl DeBary, Charles Wilson, Nature Counselors; Bob Lyons, Nature Counselor; Dick Harksin, Waterfront and Campcraft Counselor; and Ray Anderson, Bill Hinsen, Jim Cole, Pete Cumbie, Waterfront and Campcraft Counselors. Also to Mrs. Wilma Furnas, Mrs. Annie Perry and the others who worked so diligently in the kitchen.

#### Animal Fun Compound

Many of our campers this year had more than their share of fun watching, studying, animals, reptiles and birds on display. Our nature director, Chuck Bindner, did a thorough job in supplying some of the birds and reptiles. It helped considerably in the four areas taught in Nature and Conservation; namely, mammals, birds, insects, and reptiles. The pens, cages, stalls and general area were very well kept and cleaned every day. The counselors in charge of the compound are to be commended too.

#### Camp Certificates

This year for the very first time, Camp Attendance Certificates were presented to those campers who satisfactorily completed training in the areas selected by them.

In a future issue we will endeavor to name those campers who received their Certificate of Merit.

These certificates were presented (when weather permitted) at the huge ceremonial campfire each Friday evening. The ceremony was colorful and beautiful. There is something about a fire at night that spells out magic and wonder. Espe-

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#### Federation Notes

By CHARLES WATERMAN

**B**OATING WILL HAVE THE limelight for a goodly part of the annual convention of the Florida Wildlife Federation at Daytona Beach, Sept. 11, 12 and 13 in the Daytona Plaza hotel.

An important item of business will be the organization of a state-wide association of boating clubs and the principal speaker at the organization meeting will be Guy W. Hughes, executive director of the Outboard Boating Club of America.

Hughes, who has been executive director of the national group for eight years, has a wide background in promotion, sales and accounting and was a well-known amateur and professional athlete in the Midwest as a youth. The recent Chicago National Boat Show is the twelfth national exposition staged by Hughes. He has directed trade and public shows in St. Louis, Atlantic City, Cleveland and Kansas City. The Chicago exposition has become the largest marine exposition of its kind in the nation.

Registration for the state federation program will begin at 1 o'clock Friday afternoon, Sept. 11, and will be open to all boating groups of the state as well as members of the conservation council and federation members and guests. The Florida Conservation Council will hold its meeting at 2 p.m., Friday.

A buffet dinner for all registrants is set for 6:30 p.m. Friday, and there will be an open meeting at 8 o'clock for organization of a Florida State Outboard Boating Association. Don Cullimore of the Peterson Brothers trailer concern in Jacksonville will

preside at the meeting. He was recently elected president of the Florida Outdoor Writers Association.

Following the address by Mr. Hughes of OBC, Commodore Howard of the St. Johns River Outboard Clubs will head the organizational planning for the state boating group.

Game and Fresh Water Fish Commissioner Don Southwell will give the welcoming address at the Saturday general meeting beginning at 9:30 a.m. Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, will preside.

Ernest Mitts, director of the Department of Conservation, will speak on "Florida Boating Laws Today and Tomorrow."

"Interstate and National Boating Needs," will be the subject of Mr. Hughes of OBC and Col. Paul Troxler of Jacksonville will speak on "Engineering for Recreation."

Fred Sturges, chairman of the conservation committee of the Florida Junior Chamber of Commerce, will preside at Saturday's luncheon of that Committee.

Sam DuBon, past president of the Florida federation, will preside at Saturday's 2 p.m., meeting. Dr. Wilber will speak on "The Road Ahead." Harold Peters of Atlanta, biologist for the National Audubon Society, will give an address on "Insecticides and Wildlife" and A. D. Aldrich, director of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, will speak on "Conservation Versus Population". Fred Sturges, national chairman of the Junior Chamber of Commerce conservation program, will speak on the "Outdoor Resource Laboratory Program" of the national group. "Harvest of Cooper-

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# FISHING



ONE OF THE MOST perplexing and frustrating experiences a sportsman can have is to be one of a group of anglers when one fisherman catches all the fish. This has happened to me often, sometimes getting skunked and, occasionally, doing all the fish catching. I am at a loss to explain or understand the phenomena in either case.

It's the usual thing to dismiss such happenings with a shrug and a remark about luck or an observation that a small difference in the action of one lure was responsible. This is an oversimplification. I have never been so convinced. Perhaps these things do have their effect, but there must, also, be something more.

I have many times fished with expert anglers where the difference in skill between us was very slight if at all. Still, the fish repeatedly hit one angler's offering while ignoring the others'. Part of being an expert angler is the ability to observe a successful companion's tactics and from this deduce the winning combina-

tion. This helped us not at all. The difference was there all right, plain to see in that one full, fish stringer, but the cause defied analysis.

To illustrate, let me cite one of many similar experiences. A few years back, I was fishing regularly with Les Keith of Jensen Beach. One day, I took my boat down to St. Lucie Inlet and soon found Keith casting from the north shore into a tide rip. He was catching sea trout on almost every cast. These trout all weighed better than five pounds each. I eased my boat into position and anchored so I could cast into the same rip from the seaward side. Keith and I were using identical outfits. We had 6-foot, homemade Calcutta casting rods, Penn Peer Reels, and 24-pound test, green squidding line. We were using small, brass swivels and about 12 inches of No. 6, stainless steel, leader wire. The plugs were Pflueger Pal-O-Mines in "Christmas Tree" pattern.



I began casting, using our standard "wind-whip" retrieve — no soap — I couldn't get a bump. I stopped fishing and watched my buddy casting from shore. He was fishing as usual. I could detect nothing new. I tried again—still no good. I moved my boat, I changed lures, but nothing helped. Les, meanwhile, was still catching those big, beautiful trout and urging me to come to shore. I finally did. It helped not at all. I stood alongside Keith, duplicating his every move, but I caught no trout. Why? — I frankly don't know, but I don't believe it was because of luck or a difference in how we worked our lures.

## Hand Odor

A few months ago, I stumbled on a can of "G&B" Oil Mixed Soap, manufactured in Croydon, Iowa. Burt Pruitt on the North Fork of the St. Lucie River is using it and reporting good results, not only in his personal fishing but on his party boats as well. I've used this soap just a little since then but not enough to report significant results. Here is the theory as expounded by "G&B" in a pamphlet entitled, "How Do You Smell to a Fish?"

All animals have an odor, this odor being most pronounced on the palms of the hands and soles of the feet. We all know this scent plays a big part in the lives of the lower species. The animal scent left by others is the communication system of the animal kingdom. The nature of these odors spells danger, food,



A brisk lathering with 'G&B' soap not only disposes of possible human hand odor, but also banishes fish odors after a session at the cleaning table.

protection, or romance, as the case may be. We must assume that, as animals, we humans also leave an odor and, if so, this odor must tell a story.

According to "G&B", all humans leave a hand odor on a lure or live bait after touching it. This hand odor is a danger signal, warning prospective fish customers not to strike. As an example of human hand odor affecting fish, they claim that salmon climbing the fish ladders around the dams on our northwest streams will turn around and descend the ladder if a man's hand is placed in the water at the top.

This hand odor is supposed to be strongest in adult, white males; less so in children and women; much less so in Negroes and Indians. If this is true, the oft-repeated story of how the little wife always outfishes her expert husband would have some substance in fact, as would the tales of invincibility of the barefoot boy with willow pole and can of worms.

#### Good Odors

If hand odor is poison to fishing success, then some odors must be helpful — helpful in not only adding an agreeable scent but disguising the hand odor. We have an example of this in the many ways pieces of live or cut bait have been combined with artificial lures to increase the lure's efficiency. A piece of shrimp on a bucktail jig, a strip of belly meat on a trolling feather, a bit of worm on a fly are all standard practices in many places.

There are even some products on the market, advertised as "fish oils," that are designed to be used in just this manner. One of Florida's most honored sports fishermen, holder of many World's Records, uses one of these "fish oils" and swears by it. Some of these fish oil products are even matched to specific species of fish for added efficiency, but for this discussion, let's stick to just plain fish oil.

"G&B" claims all lures should not only be devoid of hand odor but



An Old water jug, half full of deodorizing solution, makes a handy 'dip pot' for artificial lures.

have an allure odor added. Certain natural oils have long been recognized as attractive to fish. Oil of anise, aspidity, catnip, peppermint, and rodium are used for fish baits. These oils must be used sparingly. About one drop in a minnow bucket or can of worms is about right. Dipping an artificial lure in a solution made with a tiny amount of these oils is, also, recommended.

Sardines, cod liver oil, and other fish oils are, also, often used to scent baits or chum for fish. Human saliva is said to have a deodorizing action, which may explain the persistence of the superstition of spitting on

your bait for "luck." At any rate, "G&B" advises you wash your hands thoroughly with their soap to deodorize your hands and thus avoid putting danger signals on your lures.

They, also, recommend making a solution of one teaspoon of their soap to a quart of water to use as a dip for lures or live bait. This dip is supposed to banish hand odor and add a gentle allure odor. This is the method Pruitt is using. One thing I can attest is that washing your hands with "G&B" Soap after a fishing trip and session at the fish cleaning table will leave them soft, smooth, and odor free.

#### Sounds Good

I make no claim in all this — am merely passing along what I think is an interesting theory that appears to have a great deal of merit. I do know trappers would never think of setting a trap with bare hands. In fact, they use all kinds of tricks to avoid hand odor and set up an allure odor. Various oils are standard in this regard. Why should fishing be any different?

Toby Tyler of Miami tells me an interesting story that touches on this theory by accident. Toby says he was interested in oil of anise as a fish lure after noticing that many of the artificial worm lures he sells in his tackle shop have a built in oil of

(Continued on page 30)

## Fishing Regulations Changed

**F**ISHERMEN IN THE First and Fourth Conservation Districts of South Florida will be allowed a daily bag limit of 50 panfish and 10 black bass, under new regulations adopted by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at Tallahassee July 22. Other districts will remain at 25 panfish and 8 black bass.

In other actions, the Commission:

Increased the daily bag limit on pickerel from eight to 15 statewide.

Set a daily bag limit of 30 on white bass, found in Northwest Florida.

Approved the taking of non-game fish by spear, gig or bow and arrow

(all under-water methods prohibited) in the First and Fourth Districts, and approved that other suitable waters may be opened to rough fish spearing upon order of the director.

Closed the Oklawaha River and tributaries to all commercial fishing.

Opened that portion of the St. Marys River contiguous with the Georgia - Florida border (Nassau County), to commercial fishing with baskets of Commission specifications, with such fishing to be carried on in the main river channel only. ●

# Conservation Convention at Clearwater

OUTSTANDING EXPERTS in all phases of natural resource conservation will gather at Clearwater, Florida, September 13-18 for an annual convention with an international flavor.

Representatives of soil, forestry, water, fish and wildlife agencies in the United States, Canada and several foreign countries will attend the week-long double-convention.

From 400 to 800 persons are expected to attend the combined meetings of the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners and the American Fisheries Society.

Theme of the International meeting will be "Inter-Agency Coordination for Conservation." Purpose of the American Fisheries Society meeting will be the annual presentations of new scientific data in the fisheries fields.

The two conventions are held jointly each year in order to attain a more efficient meeting operation. Actually, the International Association, with A. D. Aldrich, of Florida, as president, will meet the first two days — Monday and Tuesday. Then on Thursday and Friday, the Fisheries Society, with Dr. W. Mason Lawrence, of New York, as president, will hold its annual convention. The intermediate day — Wednesday—will be a cooperative recreation and field trip day for members of both organizations.

Site of the meeting will be the Fort Harrison Hotel. Program chairmen are Dr. O. Earle Frye for International, and E. T. Heinen, for the Fisheries Society. Both Frye and Heinen represent the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Other Florida agencies cooperating in the event include the Florida Development Commission, the Florida Welcome Stations, the State Board of Conservation, the Florida Board of Forestry, the Florida Board of Parks and Historic Memorials, the

Florida Road Department, the Florida Department of Agriculture and its Bureau of Immigration, and others.

Many Florida civilian and business organizations are also cooperating in an all-out effort to display the official Florida hospitality note for all visitors.

Among the topics to be heard by International members will be "Conservation in Government — The Executive, Judicial and Legislative Viewpoints," "Interagency Coordin-

ation at the International Level," "Problems and Results in Interagency Coordination at the National Level," and the "State's Viewpoint of Inter-State and State-Federal Coordination."

American Fisheries Society members will consider new data and findings applying to salt and fresh water fish, fishing and fisheries.

The Clearwater Chamber of Commerce is lending assistance in the staging of the annual convention session. ●

## Resident Game Regulations Set

FLORIDA's 1959-60 GENERAL hunting season for resident game birds and animals will open Saturday, November 21, in all districts of the State.

The opening date—applying to deer, turkey, quail, squirrel and bear—was set during a formal meeting of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at Tallahassee, July 22.

Hunting will be allowed every day in the First, Third and Fourth Conservation Districts.

The Second and Fifth Districts, Northeast and North Central Florida, will have "staggered-day" hunting, with the first nine days (Nov. 21-Nov. 29) and the period December 25 through January 3 open every day. Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays will be closed at all other times in the two districts.

Shooting hours for resident game species will be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset on each open day.

Hunting dates, special seasons and bag limits for the various species of resident game animals and birds are:

**Deer**—Buck deer with one or more five-inch antlers, one per day, two per season. (Doe and fawn deer, and bucks with less than five-inch antlers, protected at all times.) Opens one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 21, and closes one-half hour after sunset Sunday,

January 10, except in the First and Fourth Districts where closing date is January 3. In First District, Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, Pinellas, and DeSoto counties, and that part of Hillsborough county south of U. S. Highway 92, closed at all times. Special Second District deer-hunting season November 21 through December 13 in Gilchrist county with every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday closed; Columbia county south of State Road 18 and east of U. S. Highway 441 closed at all times. Special Third District season, November 21 through December 6 and December 19 through January 3, in Okaloosa and Walton counties to coincide with season in Eglin Air Force Military Reservation; Washington, Holmes, Jackson, Escambia, and Santa Rosa counties closed at all times except in Eglin Field and Blackwater Wildlife Management Areas. Fourth District's Monroe county closed to Key Deer at all times.

**Turkey**—Either sex legal game during regular season two per day, three per season. Opens one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 21, and closes one-half hour after sunset Sunday, January 10, except in the First and Fourth Districts where closing date is January 3. Special First District turkey-hunting season November 21

(Continued on page 34)

The historical Apalachicola River meanders from its "headwaters" at the Jim Woodruff Dam, near Chattahoochee, southward to the Gulf of Mexico, offering a rare variety and combination of fish and fishing.

Rivers, lakes and streams in six Northwest Florida counties were surveyed for this special report titled . . . . .



Commission photo by Jim Floyd

## **Apalachicola Watershed**

THE FLORIDA LAKE AND STREAM SURVEY was initiated by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Fish Management Division, on July 1, 1954. This project is a cooperative federal-state study, and is financed through the provisions of the Dingell-Johnson Act.

The purpose of the Survey is to inventory the lakes and streams of importance that are open to public use; to obtain basic physical and biological information concerning them; to evaluate the fisheries they contain as to type of fish, their abundance, and the quantity and quality of fishing provided; to determine the importance of the individual body of water on the state and local level; and to formulate management plans.

Most important, when the Survey is completed, the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will, for the first time, have basic statewide information of the very important inland fisheries of Florida. With this data, the formulation of policies and procedures for the proper utilization and conservation of the fresh water fisheries may have a more substantial basis from the standpoint of long range and state-wide fishery management.

The need for the Survey is clear. Any business manager of any company has at his fingertips an annual or even monthly inventory of what stocks or materials his plant has on hand. He knows what his production figures are, including the last piece of goods manufactured. He has a fairly accurate idea of what the market conditions are now, and what they will probably be in the future. More important, the business

**PART 1**  
**Prepared By Members**  
**of the**  
**Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission's**  
**LAKE AND STREAM SURVEY TEAM**  
**A Federal Aid Project**  
**as provided by**  
**THE DINGELL-JOHNSON ACT of 1950**

manager is keenly aware of any problems his business may have in the production and marketing of the company product, and is constantly improving and expanding his management procedures to meet changing conditions. Without the basic information to manage correctly, either the business manager or his company is soon defunct.

The Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, charged with the responsibility of managing one of the state's most important resources—her fresh water fisheries—has never had a complete inventory of the lakes and streams that supply the fishing. No one knows the number of lakes in the state open to public fishing, much less the amount and kinds of fish present, or the production, or fishing pressure. Due to a lack of funds, and numerous and important immediate problems that had to be resolved, such fact gathering had to be delayed until the present. It is hoped that the information gained from this Survey will assist the administrators and technicians so that

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from preceding page)*

Florida may continue to provide top-notch fishing for her residents and the nation for many years to come.

This Survey has several limitations, as all such projects must. Only those lakes open to the public and over 150 acres in size will normally be surveyed. It would be obviously impossible to include all of Florida's lakes in the time allocated to the study. The 150-acre limitation was used because generally, but not always, lakes over this size are public waters while those of lesser size frequently are not. For much the same reason, only the more important and larger rivers will be studied.

Secondly, the Survey is by no means a comprehensive study of any individual lake or stream. Bodies of water are complex and individual units which require years of study to acquire all the facts and answers, rather than the short periods that they are investigated by this project. Some information may have been overlooked, and some of the findings possibly in error. Enough basic information has been collected, however, to provide the blueprint for future management.

It should be emphasized that the Lake and Stream Survey is a research unit, and not a management arm, of the Commission. In other words, this project attempts to obtain the facts, and make recommendations based on them. With the publication of this

bulletin, and the filing of much more detailed data in the Tallahassee office, the work of the Survey on the Apalachicola Watershed is completed. The recommendations contained herein will be considered and put into effect, as time and funds permit, by other branches of the Fisheries Division.

#### About this Bulletin:

This report is designed to provide:

1. A capsule summary of the Survey findings in this area for the use of Commission members and interested sportsmen.
2. A semi-official guide to the fishing and accommodations for fishermen in the area surveyed.

Similar bulletins will be published about the fish and fishing in other areas as the Survey progresses.

**The Apalachicola Watershed** includes all or portions of Jackson, Gadsden, Liberty, Calhoun, Gulf, and Franklin Counties. In this bulletin, the waters of the entire watershed are treated.

Treatment centers around the Apalachicola River and its major tributaries, the Chipola, Brothers, and Florida Rivers; Kennedy Creek, and River Styx. Considerable space is also devoted to the relatively few lakes and impoundments which are Merritt's Mill Pond, Ocheese Pond, Dead Lakes, Lake Wimico, and the large and recently impounded Lake Seminole.

Presented on the following pages are discussions and summaries of the data obtained for each body of water surveyed, also maps showing roads, fishing camps, boat ramps, and water depths are included.

## THE APALACHICOLA RIVER

**C**UTTING DEEP INTO the Northwest Florida landscape, the Apalachicola River twists and turns finding its way to salt water. Its meandering course offers a rare variety and combination of fish and fishing.

Before entering the Gulf, the river fans into an immense tidal swamp accessible only by boat. Here bass and pan fish share the spotlight with ladyfish,

tarpon, speckled trout, and channel bass. Bass fishing peaks occur in the spring and fall during which time best catches are made on live shrimp. Bream, mostly shellerackers, are caught on worms the year round.

A few miles from the coast, although still tidal, the river changes;—banks topped with vast wooded areas start to rise. Here mucky tributaries and dark sloughs constantly enter and leave, adding an almost unlimited expanse of untamed waters. Again largemouth bass and shellerackers come in for much angling attention.

Still further from the coast another change is noted. The sloughs and tributaries that were so common disappear. High bluffs exhibiting layers of yellow clay and limestone drop straight down to vanish beneath the surface. On week-ends and holidays, the river's large sandbars are crowded with skiers, picnickers, and sunbathers. In this section, most of the fishing is in the main river around snags where large numbers of shellerackers, bluegill, redbreast, and channel catfish are caught. There is very little bass fishing, but

*Before entering the Gulf, the Apalachicola fans out into an immense tidal swamp where, at the brackish water line, fresh and salt water fish join to feed.*



fine strings of speckled perch can be taken on live shiners.

The Jim Woodruff Dam near Chattahoochee, is considered headwaters of the Apalachicola. Here everything from cane poles to salt water fishing rigs are useful, for this area offers an abundance and variety of fish life to please any angler. Redbreast, bluegill, speckled perch, channel cat, largemouth bass, carp, white bass and striped bass are all part of the population. The stripers, a marine species which migrate up river to spawn, concentrate in great numbers beneath the dam and are often caught on small eels and shad as bait.

So take your pick. Somewhere in the Apalachicola River you're sure to find a type of fish and fishing to suit your taste.

**Date of Survey:** 1954, 1955, and 1957.

**Location:** Franklin, Gulf, Calhoun, Liberty, Gadsden, and Jackson Counties, Florida.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** Reeds, cattails, cutgrass, needle-rush, spatterdock, bulrush, and hyacinth.

**Bottom Type:** Rock, sand, and mud.

**Accessibility and Availability:** There are very few good public access areas along the river. Chattahoochee, Blountstown, and the City of Apalachicola have excellent boat ramps that are free to the public. Refer to the Apalachicola River map for fishing camps and other public access areas on or near the river.

**Fluctuation:** There are seasonal fluctuations in the bottom lands of the Apalachicola, especially in the late winter and early spring. Flooding is generally extensive across the primary flood plain to a depth of 2-5 feet in the lower part of the river, but is less extensive in the upper Apalachicola due to higher banks.

**Fishing History:** Fishing throughout the years has remained consistently good for pan fish and channel catfish.

**Fishing Methods:** Fishing methods along the river vary greatly according to the type of habitat. Live shad, shiner, eel, or an artificial worm is excellent bait for the striped, white, and largemouth bass in the upper section of the river. Earthworms, catalpa worms, and crickets are used for bream and catfish. Fly fishing is often good for bass and bream during the warm months in the sloughs and tributaries along the river. Live shrimp and shiners are used for bass and crappie respectively in the delta section.

**Recommendations:** Here as elsewhere along the Apalachicola Watershed, public landings are scarce. With the increasing population of Florida, public



Commission photos by Jim Floyd

Most access points and fish camps are located either down near the mouth of the river, or around the headwaters.

access points should be a must in every county. While the fishing camps in the area are sufficient to take care of present needs, public landings are needed which will be open to the people at all times.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Common
Spotted Bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>	Occasional
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Abundant
Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Common to Abundant
Redbreast (Willow or River Bream)	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Common
Stumpknocker	<i>Lepomis punctatus-punctatus</i>	Common

(Continued on next page)



Project Leader Keith Byrd watches tape on electronic depth recorder, a device used in plotting water depths of all waters covered by the survey crew.



(Continued from preceding page)

Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	Rare
Warmouth	<i>Chaenobryttus coronarius</i>	Abundant
Black Crappie (Speckled Perch)	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Common
Chain Pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>	Occasional to Common
Redfin Pickerel	<i>Esox americanus</i>	Common
White Bass	<i>Roccus chrysops</i>	Occasional to Common
Striped Bass	<i>Roccus saxatilis</i>	Seasonal
Yellow Perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	Rare
Alabama Shad	<i>Alosa alabamae</i>	Seasonal

#### Other Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name
Florida Spotted Gar	<i>Lepisosteus platyrhincus</i>
Longnose Gar	<i>Lepisosteus osseus</i>
Bowfin (Mudfish)	<i>Amia calva</i>

Map specialist, Jean Barkaloo, plots complete charts of each sector surveyed. Maps are available to the fisherman, with complete survey bulletin, free of charge.

Skipjack	<i>Alosa chrysochloris</i>
Menhaden	<i>Brevoortia</i> sp.
Threadfin Shad	<i>Dorosoma petenense</i>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>
Spotted Sucker	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
Eastern Chubsucker	<i>Erimyzon suetta suetta</i>
Carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>
Carpsucker	<i>Carpoides</i> sp.
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Gafftopsail Catfish	<i>Bagre marinus</i>
Sea Catfish	<i>Galeichthys felis</i>
Channel Cat	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
White Catfish	<i>Ictalurus catus</i>
Southern Brown Bullhead	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus marmoratus</i>
Yellow Cat	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>
American Eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>
Striped Mullet	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>
Redfish	<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>
(Channel Bass)	<i>Cynoscion nebulosus</i>
Speckled Trout	<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>
Flounder	<i>Paralichthys</i> sp.
Croaker	<i>Micropogon undulatus</i>
Sea Drum	<i>Pogonias cromis</i>
Spot	<i>Leiostomus xanthurus</i>
Pinfish	<i>Lagodon rhomboides</i>
Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser</i> sp.

#### Upper Chipola River

**T**HIS SHALLOW, CRYSTAL CLEAR stream flowing over a limestone bed offers a situation unique in Florida fishing. Primarily fed by vast underground springs, this stretch is reminiscent of the cold water streams of the North.

Certainly the most disheartening thing to a fisherman is to be able to see the fish dart about passing up everything he offers. In the Chipola, the most practical way to overcome this dilemma is drifting and casting with artificial flies, plugs, or spoons. Not only can it produce largemouth bass and bream, but some of the fightingest Coosa or Chipola bass found anywhere. The largest Coosa collected by the survey team

weighed 4½ pounds and reports exist of much larger ones being taken, hinting the next world's record for this species could come from these clear waters.

The old reliable cane pole also has its place on the Chipola and greatly outnumbers all other types of gear. Fishing the small pools and tributaries using worms, crickets, catalpa worms, or gator fleas (hellgramites) as bait will at times result in a fine catch of bream including stumpknocker, redbreast, bluegill, shellcracker, and occasionally channel cat and rock bass.

**Date of Survey:** June, 1957.

**Location:** From the Alabama-Florida line in Jackson

County to the bridge on State Highway 20 at Clarksville in Calhoun County, Florida.

**Aquatic Vegetation:** Spatterdock, Smartweed, Eelgrass, False Loosestrife, Burhead, Cut-grass, Water Hyacinth, Beak Rush, Rush, and Bulrush.

**Bottom Type:** Limestone rock and sand. Extreme lower section—sand and mud.

**Accessibility and Availability:** Fair at most bridges.

Poor at other places. Some areas are almost inaccessible by boat due to fallen trees and log jams.

**Fluctuation:** Heavy rainfall in the upper watershed can cause from 1 to 2 foot rise in a short time.

**Fishing History:** Fishing on the stream and its tributaries has remained fair to good throughout the years. While the individual catches probably do not run as large as they did in the "good old days," fishing pressure is heavier now than in the past and as a whole more fish are being taken from the stream.

**Fishing Methods:** Cane pole fishing with worms, crickets, or hellgramites is the most common method used for bream. Spin casting and fly fishing is excellent when the water level and clearness of the river is right.

**Fishing Pressure:** 30,433 fishermen days per year.

**Recommendations:** More public access areas and boat ramps should be established at points along the river.

#### Game Fish

Common Name	Scientific Name	Relative Abundance
Largemouth Bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	Common
Spotted Bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>	Occasional
Chipola Bass (Shoal Bass, Redeye)	<i>Micropterus coosae</i>	Common
Bluegill (Bream)	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	Common
Shellcracker	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	Common
Redbreast (Willow or River Bream)	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	Abundant
Stumpknocker	<i>Lepomis punctatus</i>	Abundant

Cane pole fishing is probably the most productive angling method along the Chipola River, with catches including bluegill, redbreast, shellcracker, stumpknocker and rock bass.

Part II of the Apalachicola Watershed Report will appear in the October issue. The complete report, plus maps of the entire survey, will soon be available through the Fisheries Division, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Fla.

Black Crappie (Speckled Perch)	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	Common
Chain Pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>	Occasional
Redfin Pickerel	<i>Esox americanus</i>	Common
Rock Bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	Occasional
	<i>ariommus</i>	
Warmouth	<i>Chaenobryttus coronarius</i>	Common
Round Flier	<i>Centrarchus macropterus</i>	Occasional
Alabama Shad	<i>Alosa alabamae</i>	Seasonal
Striped Bass	<i>Roccus saxatilis</i>	Seasonal

#### Other Fishes

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bowfin (Mudfish)	<i>Amia calva</i>
Gizzard Shad	<i>Dorosoma cepedianum</i>
Spotted Sucker (Redhorse Sucker)	<i>Minytrema melanops</i>
Carpsucker	<i>Carpoides sp.</i>
Golden Shiner	<i>Notemigonus crysoleucas</i>
Channel Cat	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Snail Cat (Flat Bullhead)	<i>Ameiurus platycephalus</i>
Yellow Cat (Butter Cat)	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>
Southern Brown Bullhead (Speckled Cat)	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>
American Eel	<i>marmoratus</i>
Striped Mullet	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>
	<i>Mugil cephalus</i>

Commission photos by Jim Floyd





# MR. STORK FINDS

tected. Through his help, the Smith-Douglass firm agreed to turn the Tenoroc mine into a sanctuary for the Ibis. Later the Panther Point mine at Bartow, also in Polk County, was also made a sanctuary by the phosphate firm.

"I am convinced of the desirability of conserving birdlife," commented Wilbur. "We recognize the beauty that birds add to the Florida scene. We are glad to find them taking advantage of our premises, and are pleased to cooperate in their protection. The Coronet Phosphate Company is delighted to have a part in the wading bird restoration program and have our property declared a wildlife sanctuary under the supervision and management of the Florida Audubon Society."

The sanctuary was formally established at Tenoroc in February. Two months later the Panther Point sanctuary was established.

The areas are not, however, open to the public. The danger from mine traffic, — phosphate is still being taken from the pits, — and the protection of the birds prohibits general admittance. Entry is allowed only on special permit issued by the Florida Audubon Society and visitors must be accompanied by representatives of the Audubon Society on each trip.

It is doubtful that any but the followers of John Audubon would hold out long enough to see the birds.

Wanting to visit the newly-opened sanctuary, this writer dropped a line to the state Audubon Society shortly after the initial announcement was made of the opening. Director Mason wrote back saying he would be glad to issue a permit for our visit if we could set the date and tell the number in the party.

We replied any day in April would be suitable and we would like to include our wife and two children in the trip.

The permit was finally issued for our group, for use during April, with instructions to contact T. W. Chisholm, president of the Lake Region chapter of the Audubon Society at Lakeland. Chisholm would then provide a member of his chapter to act as guide for our visit.

It could, undoubtedly have been accomplished more quickly if we had known the proper channels beforehand, but in all it took us two months from the initial application to arrange the final details of the visit. Audubon followers might easily expect to find a week's delay in setting up a visit.

The sanctuary is not a showplace or party to lure weekend picnickers or other such parties. The road to the mine is dusty from the thousands of loads of phosphate sand carried over it. And the rookeries are found far back in the middle of the mine's disposal

The Wood Ibis is North America's only member of the stork family.

**A** PILOT'S SHARP EYE, the interest of a conservation-minded miner and work by the Florida Audubon Society have combined to give the Wood Ibis, North America's only member of the stork family, a home designed to protect him from threatened extinction.

The story began in 1958 during a survey of wading birds being made by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. George Langford, a pilot for the Game Commission, had been assigned to fly over Polk County in Central Florida as part of his area.

Skimming low over the Tenoroc phosphate mine at Lakeland, he noted a good many snowy white birds which at first appeared to be herons. Then he noticed when the birds rose from the cypress trees in which they were roosting that they carried a black patch on each wing.

At survey headquarters Langford reported spotting the birds with the opinion they were ibis rather than herons. The Game Commission and Audubon Society sent other investigators to the scene. Checks by land and air confirmed Langford's find. The colony of storks was set at about 500.

Both the Game Commission and Audubon Society officials were elated at the find. It could prove important to the continued life of the stork.

Nine-tenths of the North American Wood Ibis population is found in Florida, Audubon figures show. During the past ten years that population has decreased 85 per cent. The stork clan was dwindling to a figurative handful.

After confirming Langford's discovery, C. Russell Mason, executive director, and other members of the Florida Audubon Society contacted officials of the Coronet Phosphate Company, owner of the huge mine. Coronet's parent firm is Smith-Douglass Co., Inc., whose Florida manager, R. M. Wilbur, proved to be highly receptive to suggestions the birds be pro-

# A HOME

By KEN MUSSON

Industry forms  
an unusual background  
for Florida's  
newest bird sanctuary

ponds. The ponds are surrounded by a high dike, the only access to the wildlife area.

We started around the dike in an automobile driven by Chisholm and carry his son, Tom; Mrs. W. S. Johnson, treasurer; Mrs. Vincent McFadden, assistant treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Niswonger, secretary; all of the Lake Region club, as well as this writer; wife, Sybil, and son, Mike. Before we had gone 100 yards the car bogged down in the dike's soft sand surface and we were forced to dig it out.

Noting our troubles, Lonnie Wood, mining superintendent, had a crewman, Eddie Davis, use one of the company's Jeep trucks to pull Chisholm's car out of the sand.

"If you would like," Wood said, "Eddie can take you folks on around the dike in the truck and save taking a chance of getting stuck again."

We accepted the invitation and with Jeanne Niswonger climbed into the pickup. Chisholm and his son, along with Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. McFadden, returned to Lakeland to bring another party to the sanctuary later in the day.

The drive along the top of the dike is not one for a person with a dislike for high places. To the right is a disposal pond, dotted with sawgrass and reeds, but deep in places. To the left is a sharp drop of about 75 feet. The Jeep's path sometimes threads its way to within inches of either side of the dike. A slip by Davis could have plunged us down the steep embankment or into the murky pond. But he made the trip without apparent worry.

Once away from the hills of freshly-mined phosphate and the mine's buildings, the 700-acre Tenoroc Sanctuary is not unlike the natural undeveloped areas of Florida. The big pond, where waste from the mining operation was once dumped, is placid and inviting. In the distance, a half to three-quarters of a mile away, a stand of gaunt cypress trees reach their tapering fingers out to scratch the beard of passing clouds. In these trees roost the Wood Ibis.



Sybil Musson, center, wife of the author, points across one of the rookery areas of Tenoroc Wildlife Sanctuary to what she believes is a Wood Ibis. Checking through field glasses are Mike, her son, and Mrs. J. Niswonger, secretary of the Lake Region Chapter, Florida Audubon Society.

But the Wood Ibis is not the only bird taking advantage of the facilities at the new sanctuary.

"You should be here in the evening," Davis commented as we paused to look at one rookery. "The birds really fly in here then."

Eagles have built nests in a few of the trees. Ospreys are noted frequently in the area.

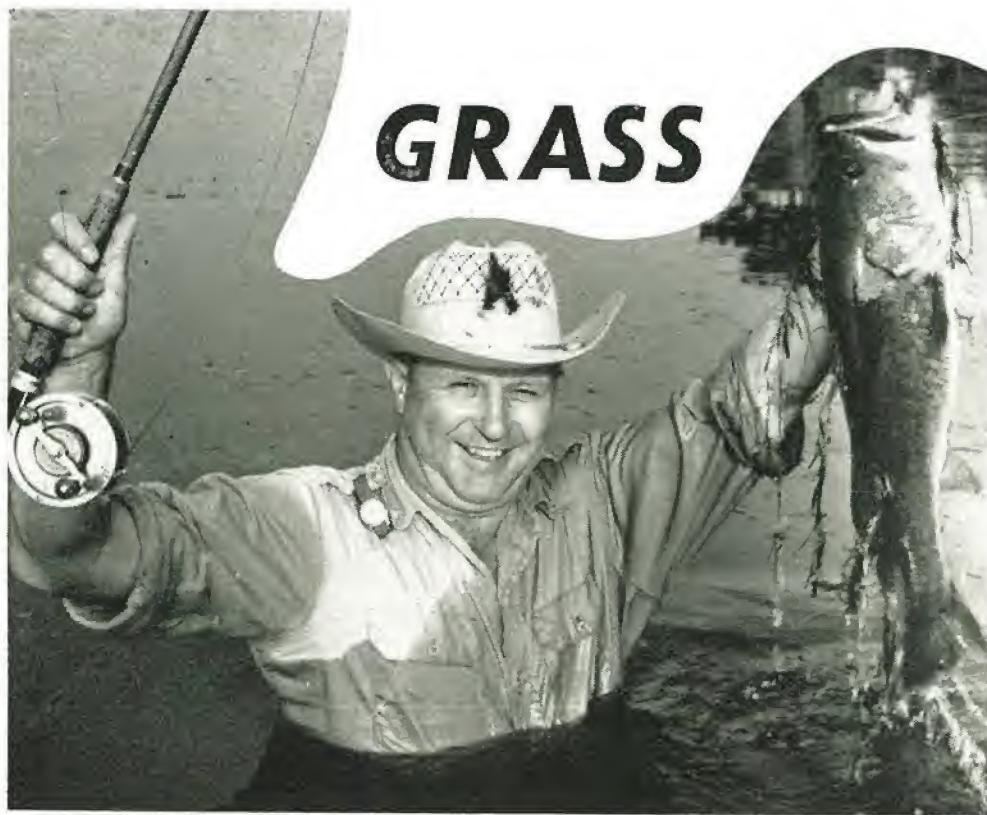
Wading along the shoreline the observer can see black-necked Stilts and a variety of herons. Ring-necked ducks, teals and coots dot the water's surface like so many toy boats set adrift by playful children.

Grebies, yellowlegs, killdeer, red-winged blackbirds, grackles and crows contribute to the symphony of sound in the background.

The phosphate mining operation has often been thought of as a devastating one in Florida. Onlookers saw miles of land ravaged by the shovels and scoops of the miners. Huge pits were dug in the state's sandy soil and left to fill with water and provide death traps to scores of fishermen and others who approached without due caution.

This new use for the mine areas is welcomed by all. The phosphate companies can still take the prime fertilizer ingredient from the earth, and the native birds are given needed protection from a booming development which threatens to destroy all their former homes.

Regardless of possible drought, the water supply remains in the mine's ponds. The nesting trees are well protected by water and sludge from human intrusion and from predators such as raccoons. And the phosphate-enriched waters are evidently abundantly loaded with food for the birds. Although the mining operations will continue for years, the birds are not bothered by the work being done. ●



# BASS

With this  
system, if you  
get your  
hands on him,  
up he comes, grass and all.

**Y**OU KNOW HOW SOUND carries over water and how most folks raise their voices to be heard over an outboard motor.

Passing boats have given me some ear-burning data regarding my personal appearance, my fishing methods and my choice of equipment.

Some of the crushing quotes have included:

"That jerk's always out here fishin'. Don't he ever work?"

"Nobody ever caught a fish there. Should we tell him?"

"Look at that! I wish I could make my wife row while I fished!"

But that evening on Little Lake George near Welaka I heard the one that stings me worst of all.

There I was up to my elbows in eel grass and water. It was a slow-cooling late summer evening and the thunderheads were rolled up in the west with a little silent lightning over there once in a while. There was only a wisp of breeze now and then and you never knew where it would come from next.

The grass was thick and lay out on top of the water with a 3-foot pocket here and there. It lined the shore, covering a belt a hundred feet wide and stopping abruptly at deeper water.

Some owls (you couldn't tell if it was two or twenty) were having an ill-humored caucus back in the timber and there were tentative frog noises.

I had a big 9-foot flyrod going, the tapered leader was a full 10-pound test at the little end and there was a canary-sized yellow bug tied to it.

A boat of homeward-bound anglers hummed by in

the channel 200 yards away and I bristled to the familiar observation as the helmsman shouted to his companions.

"Looky over there," he said. "Fly-fishin' for brim!"

Bream are good fried and they fight hard but I resent the common belief that no flyrod is used for anything that weighs over ten ounces.

I stifled my usual impulse to splash up and down in the water, wave my arms and scream, "Brim, hell! I'm after a bigger bass than you ever saw!"

Anyway, they couldn't have heard me if I had.

I moved a short step forward and took aim at a pocket near the outer edge of the grass bed. The big bug went too far, hung up in the grass and made a frightening fuss when I yanked it loose so I looked about for another pocket.

E. Joe Schmidt, the Welaka resort operator, had sent me to that spot.

"Work the bug slowly," he said. "You know — plop — plop — plop! not plop! plop! plop!"

"Yeah, yeah, yeah," I had said impatiently with the superior air I reserve for beginning bug fishermen.

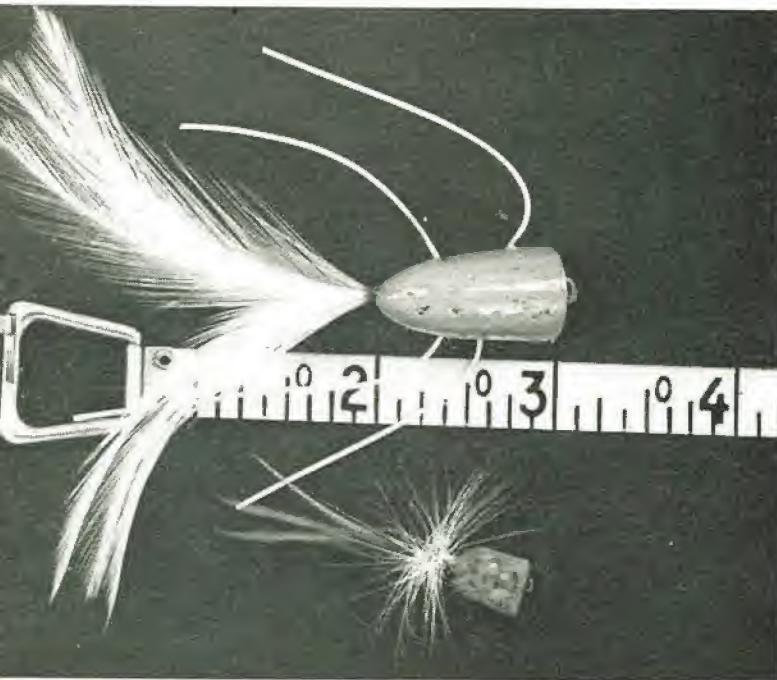
"Now wait a minute," said Joe, just a little hostile, "Sometimes I do better plopping it fast, you know."

I became respectful immediately with the realization that this was a bug fisherman and not just a guy who had read an article.

Joe was enthusiastic about the fishing and it had been some time since I'd heard fishing enthusiasm. You know — hot weather, late summer, no boats out except morning and evening, air conditioners running everywhere, fishermen figuring reasons why they

# AND BUGS

By CHARLES WATERMAN



The full-sized bass bug is almost four inches long. Bream bugs aren't usually large enough to interest big bass.

should take naps — you know.

It was a familiar picture and it added up to popping bugs and flyrods.

There have been few occasions when I've been a fish-camp hero but when that rarity does occur it's usually a product of popping bugs. When everybody's catching big bass, the fly-rodder is a lonely figure on the rim of things — but he has his moments, usually when hot weather changes things.

I hadn't met Joe Schmidt before and I thought he might be after customers. Still — all of his cabins were full.

Joe drew me a little map.

"Grass all along here," he said. "There's a bass in every pocket."

Well, when the noisy guys in the boat had disappeared around the bend I really got down to work.

The bug had rubber legs that were left long the way Chuck Schilling says so they move in the water for three or four seconds after every twitch. I got it into a nice big pocket and a bream came charging out and hopped all over it. He couldn't get on the big hook but he bore out my contention that if bluegills grew to weight 20 pounds I wouldn't venture out in anything smaller than a cabin cruiser.



Warm weather wading gear consists of old clothing and canvas shoes. Shown here are the surplus 'jungle boots' that are a little hard to find these days.

Then, in another glassy pocket there was some kind of movement, just a barely perceptible water-shifting of some sort and when I popped my bug again, I had a chugging strike that can mean almost anything. I got the hook into him and he boiled a brief wake across his little pocket and was down into the eel grass before you could say, "Pass the net, Lester."

I heaved on the rod but nothing moved so I figured he was gone and had hung me up down there. I waded toward the scene of his last appearance and about the time I was ready to reach down in there and get my bug my leader zipped off to one side and a spry 2-pounder jumped once and gave up.

A few minutes later I had a hard strike — not much splash, just a good yank, and found myself wrestling a fish that bored down into the grass for a repetition of the first act. This one I figured was bigger and I pawed feverishly around down there and got him out. He would have gone every bit of eight ounces and I was glad no one was watching.

Next came what I call the drowning horse or toilet flushing type of strike along the outer edge of the grass bed but when I nearly tore my T-shirt setting the hook it came free and the flyline wrapped around

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from preceding page)  
my neck, the bug snagging me just below the left shoulder blade.

The ways of a bass with a bug are many and strange and although I've tried to classify the various kinds of strikes, I've been fooled so many times by big ones that acted like little ones and little ones that acted like big ones that I assume every nip is a whopper. This attitude of mine has often caused a 7-incher to hurtle over my head but has caused me to hook quite a number of decent bass who pretended to be small panfish and merely took the bug down in a "sinker strike."

In a sinker strike, the bug simply sinks. That's right. It just sinks. There's no pop and no sucking sound. It just goes down. It happens most frequently with soft-bodied hair bugs. The bass comes up under the lure and bumps it with his nose. It feels soft and shows no inclination to fly, run or swim away so he just plays it cool and takes it down. Still, it may be a 4-inch bream pulling on the end of one of the feathers.

That was the kind of a strike I had next and I managed to get a tight line and a 2-pound bass came out into the open, jumping a couple

of times before I grabbed his lower lip. I don't use a net much in wading grassy waters. There's only one hook in most bass plugs so you can get a thumb in a fish's mouth with little danger. When you land a bass with a flyrod, he's usually completely done in. If the fight ends up with him tangled in vegetation you can gently follow your leader down with your hand and get his gills if he insists on keeping his mouth shut.

I'd worked a hundred yards from my anchored boat and it began to get dark. It was hard to see the bug except when I twitched it. I missed half a dozen light strikes and changed to a lure with a shorter, more open hook.

Then at the edge of the grass bed I had a spattering strike such as a big needlefish or small gar might make. I set the hook instinctively and decided I had a small bass instead. He went out into open water and pulled surprisingly hard for a little fellow. I noted he didn't jump and thought I might have snagged the father of all bream. He got into the grass, worked himself out and I poured on the pressure. He dug for the bottom and suddenly quit, popping to the surface almost under

my chin, on his side and completely fagged. He weighed exactly six pounds. Well, you never can tell.

It had been a wonderful evening and Joe Schmidt hadn't exaggerated a bit.

I have friends who do a lot of Florida fly fishing but consider it primarily a panfish sport. They use bugs but mostly "brim-sized" ones, the idea being that they can have plenty of action with panfish and still be ready for any bass that happens along.

Now I've done my share of this fishing and it's a lot of fun but the good-sized Florida bass I've caught on the little panfish bugs have been far between. It's true the little fellows will eat them up and you'll have more action with small lures but most of the time the bigger bass will prefer the largest bug you can cast comfortably.

You can go to a medium-sized bug that's too much for most of the bream but will get some little bass — but if you're strictly bass fishing and want big ones, you'd better go to the large sizes.

The flyrod sometimes catches lunkers but you'll get a better percentage of record-breakers with some larger form of lure. In bug-fishing I'm thinking usually of 2-pound bass and the bugs I use are about right for that size. I consider a 5-pounder a big flyrod bass and anything over that is a bragging fish. I've never caught a 10-pounder on a fly — not that he couldn't be handled all right but a 10-pounder is usually looking for something bigger than a bug so let's face the facts.

Fishing in eel grass or where there's coon tail moss, I like a big, powerful rod. In glass it will be about 8½ or 9 feet long and will weigh five ounces. It will use a GAF line of a C level.

Distance isn't very important, especially if you wade. I want the



The author reaches for a bass that's hung up somewhere in the grass. You have to be careful in this operation or you'll break him off.

powerful rod mainly for throwing big bugs and for yanking one out of the foliage when it hangs up. Fishing into thick eel grass you'll have lots of hangups and it's a nuisance to wade over and unhook it by hand. With a big rod and strong leader, I just yank 'er loose 90 percent of the time. That doesn't sound very dainty but bass bug fishing isn't.

A bass digging into grass is hard to hold out. In fact, if he weighs more than three pounds I am unable to stop him with a 9-foot rod at right angles to his route using one hand. He will simply pull the tip around or take line.

Leader length isn't too important in bug fishing. I use a 9-footer most of the time and, fishing slowly, I don't lay my line over very many fish that haven't seen my bug first—but don't think a big flyline won't scare a near-surface bass if it slaps down in front of his nose. My leader material tests ten pounds at the tip when it's new but after being yanked around through the water shrubbery for an hour or so it seldom has that much strength left.

Fish that strike bugs are hard to hook. After years of brooding about it, I'm inclined to think there aren't many rules. You should keep your flyrod pointed pretty much toward the bug and you should work your bug with your line stripping hand. If you twitch the rod-tip to add action you must take up the slack line immediately and you must not keep lifting your rod until it's nearly straight up on the retrieve. When he strikes and the bug disappears, you strike back and lean into him pretty hard. Most of your striking power will be used up in getting the bend into your rod and in picking up your line.

It is probable that many fish actually miss bugs without meaning to, especially on fast strikes. When you get down to it, a bug is a lot lighter than any living creature that could possibly make so much noise. A hard-striking fish might shove a bug away with his own bow-wave. It is natural to think of all of your



This scene depicts what can happen if a "hung up" bass suddenly gets loose while you're walking up to him.

fish as coming up from behind the bug but that isn't the case, of course, and a fish hitting from the front is quite likely to strike the leader, knock the bug away and save himself a lot of trouble. When that happens, you'll probably lie back on the rod and make such a monstrous splash with the bug that he's emotionally disturbed for the rest of the evening.

It pays to watch for barely perceptible wakes near your bug. Maybe a real old gator-chaser is lying there trying to make up his mind just as you take it away from him. Sometimes there is a gentle bulge of water with no splash or wake—a sure indication that something with considerable displacement is interested. As long as he keeps rubbering you have a chance to fool him. Start with the most gentle manipulation and gradually work up to violent jerks. Leave your most explosive didoes until last because they may spook him when all he wanted was a nice tidbit without too much fight.

If your line won't float, lay down the whole outfit. A bass bug is hard

enough to pick off the water when the line is working perfectly—when it sinks and pulls the bug under as you start your backcast it turns into real work—and sloppy work at that. A bug with a popping cup that tends to turn and dive as you pick it up should be altered or thrown away.

There are several reasons why bass bug fishermen like to wade. For one thing, the flyrod is a perfect weapon for wading because you can move along slowly, fishing new territory at each cast *without wasting a long retrieve over water you've already fished*. You fish a few feet of new water, pick up your fly and cast again.

Wading makes long casts unnecessary as you make very little disturbance. With a boat, your casts should be longer.

One of the most important reasons for wading is simply that most warm weather bass bug fish are caught during the brief periods of dawn and dusk. Only one fisherman can operate well out of a boat under bug fishing conditions and if two

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# ON MY HONOR JIM

ONE DAY I WALK INTO the house and pick up the telephone, but before I can dial, Dorothy pushes down the button and says, "Don't!"

"I beg your pardon?"

"Cut it out, buster. I'm your wife, remember? You are wearing your 'I-am-about-to-help-my-boss-Jim' look again."

I draw myself up haughtily, saying, "My dear, I am NOT in the habit of intruding!"

"Good!" says she, happily.

"However," I continue, "in certain extreme cases, where I know I am the man for the job, I feel it to be a simple act of friendship. I do it for Jim!"

She says, "Maybe Jim would rather do whatever it is, himself?"

"I say, 'Poo Poo. I was once a boy scout."

"Yes," she says. "True. Two years a tenderfoot. I remember. So?"

"So Jim needs a man to take his group out for fire making and I am going to secretly volunteer. And the least you can do is be understanding, for goodness sake!"

"How do you know he needs help? Did he ask you?"

"I overheard him talking to Mr. Anders."

"Did he ask you?"

"I am volunteering!"

"How does one 'secretly' volunteer?"

"Easy," I say. "Knowing all the scouts, I shall call them to say that we shall meet at seven in the morning for fire making, instead of one in the afternoon. Then, promptly at the stroke of twelve I shall march my group up to Jim and accept his polite apologies for past remarks."

Reaching for the phone, I hear her mutter, "Promptly at the stroke of twelve you will probably be in the middle of Winyah bay without a paddle."

Which shows how wrong she is, for it is not Winyah bay at all, but Springer creek in which I find myself struggling that fateful following Sunday, and it is an accident that could happen to anyone.

The way the day starts, you would hardly guess that anything could go wrong. The boys are assembled and eager, all except young Jack Stuart who claims that early morning is the worst time for fire building as everything is damp, and am I sure I have the instructions right? I ignore him, step to the head of the column, and we march off singing "Old McDonald." We are still singing "Old McDonald" some twenty-five minutes later when I plunge into Springer creek, for what takes place is that, checking on my group as they crawl under a barbed wire fence, I am unfor-

By DAVID ROSS

tunately walking backwards to the water at the very instant that fate shoves a wet rock underfoot.

Naturally I slip. But with lightning like reflexes, I twist and contort my body in such a manner as to cleave the water in a perfect dive. At least that is my plan, but somehow I either don't start planning soon enough or I misjudge the distance, for when I land it is a smacking face down and flat. In fact it is a real bellywhopper.

Furthermore, the wire has half torn the shirt off my back, leaving a trail of blood, which same is having a most upsetting effect on many of those present. And well it might, for these are young people. It is to be expected that they will panic a trifle and become upset at the sight of their leader floundering around in seeming desperation, apparently drowning in his own free flowing blood.

Indeed, the situation is even beginning to make me ill, so I am not too severe with young Jack Stuart when he dives in and pulls me out. Frankly speaking, it was most reassuring to feel his strong arm across my chest, for what with the current tugging away and the awful sight of my own blood, I am in a fair way towards being in serious trouble until he leaps.

However, I remonstrate with him for appearances sake, while he is arranging a tourniquet around my arm.

"Jack," I say kindly, "I am touched. That was a brave—although unnecessary—thing you just did."

He looks embarrassed and mutters, "Aw, I had to, sir!"

"Yes Jack, I know. Being the fine lad you are, you felt it your duty to plunge into that swift stream, heedless of danger, to save your leader."

I feel a lump in my throat. Placing my hand on his shoulder, I say, "I'm proud of you, Jack. Proud. But I want you to promise me boy, never to do that again."

He shrugs, "Shucks sir, I won't. I don't have to, now."

I say, "Good. That's what . . ."

I say, "What?"

"My merit badge, sir. I didn't have one in first aid before."

I remove my hand from his shoulder. I look at him.

He says, resignedly, "But that still doesn't take care of artificial respiration."

I continue to regard this unbelievable fiend with cold stare.

He says, sorrowfully, "I thought about leaving you

in a while longer, but you're built kind of weak and I didn't want to take any chances."

I say, "Thank you."

I change the subject.

"We will now build a fire. Everyone look for wood."

They scatter, all but Jack. He sits down and begins whittling.

I say, "Jack. Ahem."

He gives me a friendly smile.

I say, "Jack, don't you intend looking for wood?"

He tells me, "Sir, don't you think it's more important that I stay here?"

Frankly, I don't, but some instinct warns me to play it cagy.

I say, "Ah. Well, hmm."

You can't get much cagier than that.

In a few moments the others return, and I spring briskly into action.

"Charles, you pile it there. Edward, you start the fire. Bruce . . ."

There is a tug at my sleeve. I feel a sinking sensation, without even knowing why.

I say, "Yes, Jack?"

"Sir, aren't you going to give the demonstration?"

"Demonstration?"

"Yessir. Mr. Jim promised that a surprise expert would show us some fire making tricks."

Well, damn Jim! I mean, when I accidentally overheard him planning this, I never dreamed . . ."

I say, "A surprise ex . . . ??"

I pause.

He pauses.

They pause, expectantly, while I examine this quite large kettle of fish. Inside I am simmering at Jim for tricking me into volunteering, but before the children I naturally maintain an expressionless poker face. It is with some surprise, therefore, that I hear Jack speak.

"Aren't you well? Are you sick, sir?"

"What?"

"Your face. You look upset, sir. Are you angry?"

I take a deep breath. I smile. It is ghastly, I know,

for I can feel coming into play, muscles which I ordinarily use for sneering purposes only, but it is the best I can do.

They are all still waiting.

I say, "Jack, come here."

He does. Slowly.

"Jack, you're right. You do deserve that merit badge, my boy. You do. Yes. And the one for artificial respiration, too. Oh certainly!"

I continue, "And how about fire making? Why not include that, also? Oh what a proud father yours will be when you tell him of the glories achieved this notable morning!"

"Gee that's swell sir, but . . ."

I interrupt.

"Come come boy! Let us have no false pride here! You were about to decline . . . through sheer modesty, now weren't you? But I say unto you, Jack Stuart junior . . . you are your father's son! You deserve this honor!"

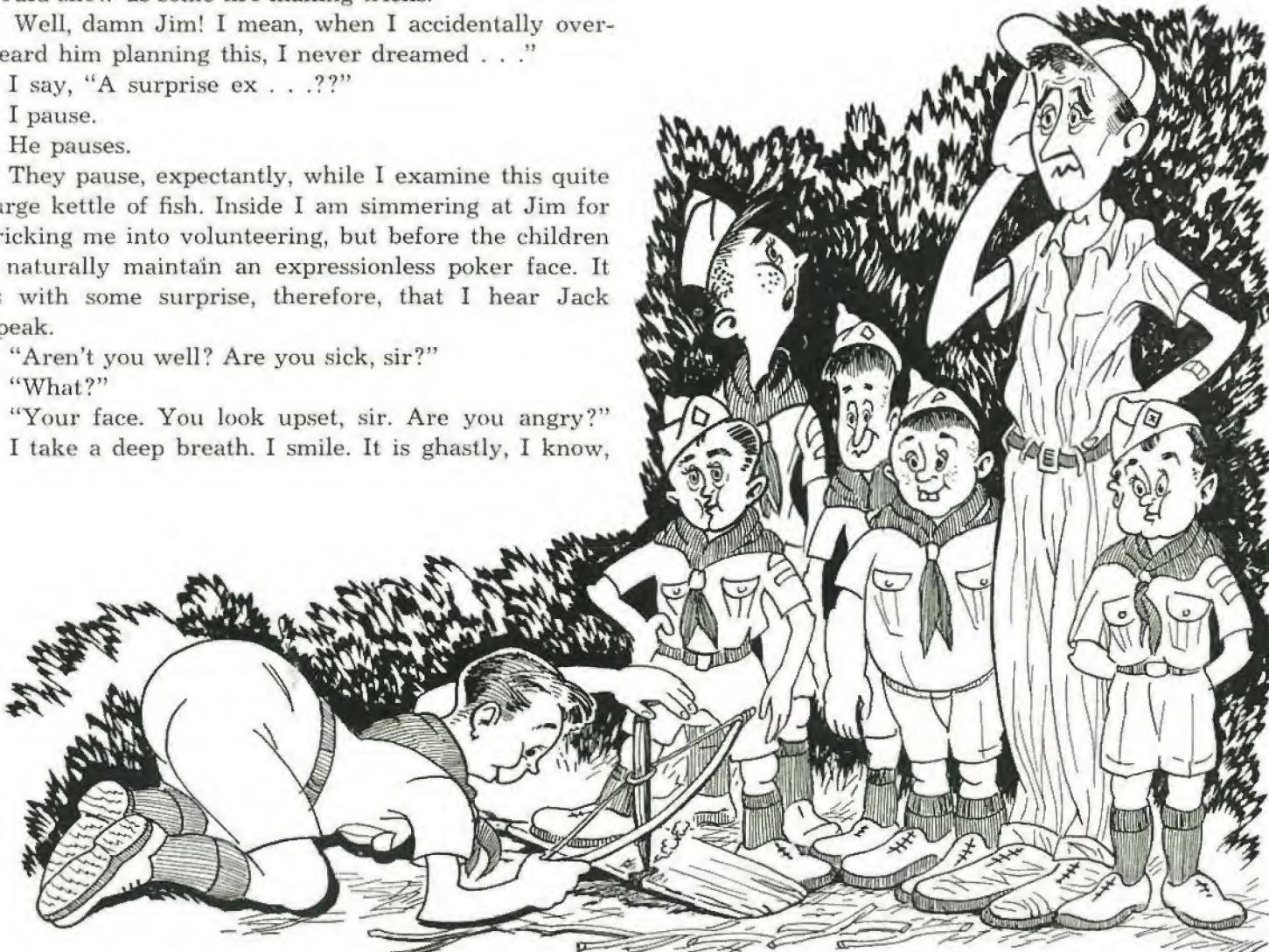
I bristle.

"And you shall have it!"

He tells me, "I already got it!"

"What?"

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Hunting safety begins with you!

Will your trips afield this fall prove

# SAFE -- OR SORRY?

By EDMUND McLAURIN

**N**ATIONWIDE — FLORIDA INCLUDED — there is serious concern about the increasing number of hunting accidents.

This concern has sound basis. As our national population mounts higher every year, increased interest in hunting is statistically reflected. Today there are more hunters afield than ever before, and greater competition for the annual Fall harvest of surplus game.

At least 20 million hunters are expected to be afield this coming hunting season. If last year's history is repeated, too many of them will venture forth with the warped philosophy of "If it moves, shoot it!"—without waiting to make sure whether the target is man or game.



No. 1 hunting safety rule is to positively identify your target before you shoot. Don't run the risk of shooting another human because of anxiety to bag your share of game.

The true hunter, who buys a hunting license every season for the privilege of recreation, and in support of state conservation programs, is still around but bucking stiff competition. . . .

Psychologists claim that many persons do not today hunt for the sheer joy of hunting, but to temporarily get away from some unsolved personal problem. Seeking wild game with a gun offers perfect contrast from a now complex civilization, while providing change and escape.

They further say an otherwise perfectly normal person can undergo an amazing change of personality once he gets a loaded gun in his hands and starts hunting. This Jekyll-Hyde switch is comparable to the change that takes place in some people when they get behind the wheel of an automobile. The alarming increase in the number of annual hunting accidents substantiates the fact that psychologists are not just mumbling behind their filter-tip cigarettes!

Many old-timers are sadly considering putting aside their guns, claiming hunting has become too risky. They say it's no joke to be caught in the shot pattern from the gun of a careless hunter blas'ing away at a low-flying bird, or to be fired upon while occupying a turkey blind or deer stand.

With more hunters buying licenses, there is heavy demand on game commissions for more game to hunt.

Once triggered, no power on earth can recall a fired bullet. Did the bullet from the pictured empty cartridge case down a true target, or did it kill or maim another hunter?



Each year, many persons go hunting so ignorant of gun handling that they have to ask how to load their guns! Currently, Hunter Safety instruction is helping to alleviate the problem.

As in Florida, state game commissions want them to have it—consistent with sensible conservation of basic breeding stock.

But the more available game, the greater the attraction of hunting. Any announcement of surplus game populations within a designated area invariably attracts many novices. These new hunters have the price of a gun and hunting license, but sadly lack the gun handling knowledge needed to make them safe, responsible persons afield. Every year, countless persons go hunting so ignorant of gun handling that they have to ask companions how to load and unload their guns! The result is a conglomeration of safe and unsafe hunters afield.

Fifty or more hunters per square mile represent far too dense an armed population for relaxed recreation. Floridians found that out Opening Day of last year's deer hunting season, when a particular area attracted a heavy concentration of eager hunters. Besides veteran hunters, entire families—armed to the teeth—made the short hunt a Roman holiday. Fortunately, no one was seriously hurt. Truly, some guardian angel walked the forest that November morning.

As might be expected where hunter concentrations are heavy, there are always a few plain screwballs active. Two years ago, right here in Florida, one such converted an autoloading shotgun to accept belt-fed



"Safes" on shotguns and rifles don't always live up to their names. A trigger or tang safety button-lock blocks the trigger so it cannot be pulled—but doesn't block a cocked hammer.



ammunition, mounted the unorthodox weapon on a Jeep and managed to use it machine-gun fashion in Ocala National Forest before being spotted by patrolling Wildlife Officers. The only amusing (?) aspect about the incident was the way other hunters rushed to get out of the immediate area.

Warren Page, gun editor of *FIELD & STREAM MAGAZINE*, believes that "the two most common causes of hunting accidents in the field are (1) carelessness in some form and (2) greed or lust to get game, no matter what. The latter gets a man so nervously keyed up that he shoots when he shouldn't at what he shouldn't."

The old saying, "seeing is believing" finds ironic examples among deer hunters. Too often, accident records show, they believe they see what they don't! Some hunters are so anxious to get a shot at a deer that they mistake a stump—or another hunter—for game. Excitement and imagination often combine to bring about a tragedy.

One hunter, stopping along the trail to light his pipe, was shot because a too-eager nimrod was positive he saw "antlers." A second recorded case involved an elderly hunter who took off his hat to wipe his brow and received a bullet through the head when another hunter mistakenly believed his momentarily exposed white hair to be "a deer's tail."

Mason Bailey, of Roanoke, Virginia, and Gelindo Solda, of Norway, Michigan, were among the lucky ones.

As Bailey prepared to make a shot at a 6-point buck 45 yards away, his aimed rifle was suddenly blasted from his hands. Another hunter, who had not seen the deer at all, had fired at Bailey's movement of throwing gun to shoulder. The stock of Bailey's gun was shattered, his wrist watch demolished and his left hand cut by glass splinters. Otherwise, he came through the experience unhurt.

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Solda was carrying his Remington Model 740 auto-loading rifle across the front of his body when a bullet, fired by an overly-anxious 14-year-old boy on his first deer hunt, smashed into the receiver of his rifle. The bullet penetrated the steel receiver above the trigger guard and blew out the other side. Fragments of metal—fortunately possessing little remaining striking force—inflicted only superficial wounds. Had the carelessly fired bullet not hit the rifle's receiver it would probably have killed Solda.

This hunting season, don't run the risk of shooting another human being because of anxiety to bag your share of game. To the safety rule of making absolutely certain of your target before you shoot, add the extra precaution of keeping your gun away from your shoulder until your target has been positively identified. Actually, you have plenty of time in which to make an accurate shot, once sure that the movement is not another hunter or illegal game.

C. R. Rogers, National Rifle Association official, says, "The No. 1 hunting safety precaution is, and always will be, to see your target clearly and to identify it beyond all shadow of doubt, before you shoot."

Unfortunately, some hunters cannot even recognize the *game* they're hunting! In Wyoming a visiting, inexperienced hunter attempted to check-out a rancher's mule which he had killed, sincerely believing it to be "an elk"! . . . . A buzzard was brought to a Florida camp by a nimrod who believed he'd killed "a turkey"! . . . . Many calves are shot each hunting season for "deer"! . . . .

One of the best ways to test individual hunters for ability to quickly identify game species under various common field conditions is through the use of a tachistoscope—a type of picture projector successfully used in World War II to teach instant identification of ally and enemy plane outlines.

Instead of planes, photographs of hunters, livestock



In Florida, a statewide free public service Hunter Safety program is now being sponsored jointly by the Game Commission, the National Rifle Association, Florida sportsmen's groups, and civic-minded individuals.

and deer amid typical hunting settings are projected on a screen. The hunter whose visual capability and reaction are under test, has to correctly identify either man, livestock or game during the short time each picture is flashed on the screen. The test demonstrates to the hunter that he cannot rely on positively identifying game at first quick glance and safely shoot, and pointedly proves that it especially takes time to make necessary positive identification of deer or man amid brush.

(Full information relative to possible loan or rental of a tachistoscope, and a complement of pictures for screen projection, can be had from the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.; Sportsmen's Service Bureau, 250 East 43rd Street, New York 17, or the Minnesota State Department of Conservation, St. Paul. Where tachistoscope testing is conducted systematically and impartially, the results are often astonishing as well as educationally beneficial.)

According to optometrists, approximately 8% of our male population is color blind or partly so. Each hunting season there are more than 1½ million hunters afield to whom safety-red hunting caps mean nothing!

Blindness to true red and green are the most common forms. However, few color blind persons cannot see bright yellow and blue; even rarer is vision blind

Carelessness in some form is responsible for most hunting accidents. This hunter, waiting for the coroner to arrive, committed unintentional suicide when he thoughtlessly climbed the fence while holding a loaded gun.

to all colors. Tests show that daffodil yellow is much more easily spotted at first glance, by both normal and defective eyes. Therefore, it is an ideal hunting safety color.

Game commissions of states not already requiring the wearing of bright colors afield strongly advocate the practice.

Hunting clothes are now being manufactured in safety yellow, but acceptance has been gradual. Many hunters personally prefer red and also tend to overrate its protective qualities.

Actually, red alone is not a reliable hunting safety color. In poor light, red appears darker—sometimes almost black. It also tends to appear gray or black at a distance, or when seen to the side of one's direct vision. On overcast days, red can be seen for only a relatively short distance, whereas bright yellow and orange can be seen much further and more clearly. For maximum hunting safety, habitually wear a yellow vest over a red hunting shirt.

Some hunters claim that the wearing of bright colored clothing tends to make them too easily visible

to already wary game. However, authorities say deer and all other animals, except man and monkeys, are color blind and distinguish animate objects primarily by movement, smell and noise.

Besides color blindness, uncorrected defects in normal vision can make a hunter dangerous to others. Particularly dangerous is the myopic or near-sighted hunter. To him, movements in the brush will be hard to identify . . . . If you suspect personal eye trouble, don't go hunting until you've had an eye check-up. You might kill or maim someone . . . .

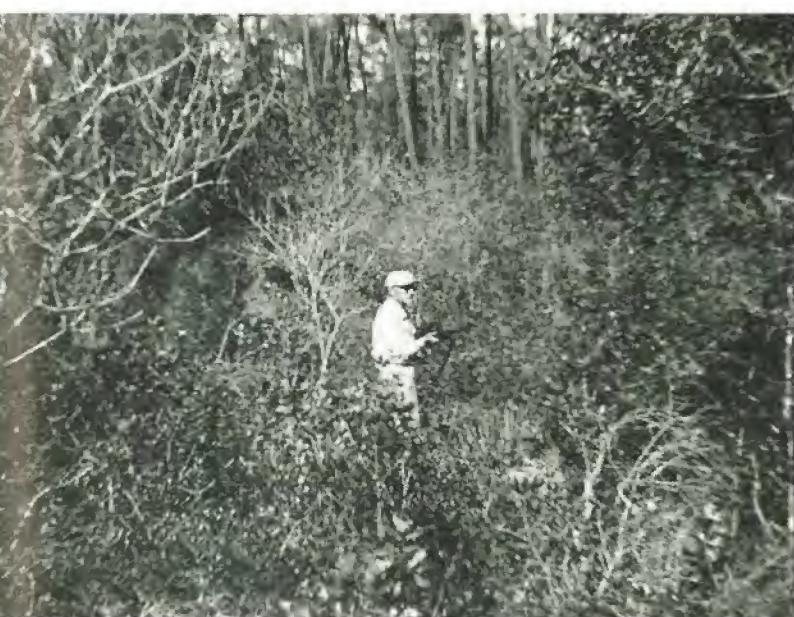
Hunting safety is not a new tune title on the public juke box. Actually, the National Rifle Association, arms and ammunition manufacturers and gun editors have long urged shooters to handle firearms safely. Prior to 1950, efforts centered largely around acquainting shooters with the "Ten Commandments of Safety"—ten cardinal rules applying to the safe handling of firearms.

But, like the Bible, educators have realized there is more to the subject than the "Ten Commandments," and that hunting safety cannot simply be donned along with the shooting coat. To be fully effective, it has to be ingrained, via individual education and experience. Particularly is this true of young shooters under 19, who—according to statistics—are most often involved in both self-inflicted and field hunting accidents.

However, older hunters have also been responsible for many accidents of record. A note of incongruity is that principals usually have been of average or above-average intelligence. Lack of quick visual perception and complete emotional control, and being psychologically unprepared to see and correctly identify the game being hunted, have been primary cause factors, case histories reflect.

Hunters themselves mostly agree that, today, safety education is as much a necessity for all hunters as it is for automobile drivers. They realize that the safe, responsible type of hunter is not immune to risk, be-

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Tests show that yellow is an ideal hunting safety color for deer hunters, but the color, so easily seen by man, won't be a warning to wary game. Authorities say that deer are color blind, and distinguish objects by movement, smell and noise.



Where game is plentiful, heavy concentrations of hunters frequently represent too dense an armed population. These dove shooters will have to be particularly careful about firing at low-flying birds.



# Those Dependable Spoons

A time-honored bait  
that has saved  
the day time and again  
for this angler

By RUSSELL TINSLEY

An acrobatic bass comes shooting out of the water when it feels the sting of a spoon.

THE SILVER SPOON glimmered in the sunlight as it arched behind the lily pads. I started it homeward slowly. The long tail of limp white porkrind wiggled snakelike as it slithered through the hyacinths. I crawled the spoon over a large green pad and into a tiny patch of dark water. There was a sudden boil on the surface and it disappeared.

I heaved back on the rod, raising the tip to prevent the bass from diving amongst the hyacinth roots. It came skyrocketing out of the water, showering the pads with droplets, tailwalked a few feet and plunged under, boring for bottom and safety. I gave line grudgingly as I could do nothing else without risking a broken leader. The bass got dangerously deep. I applied pressure, biting down on the reel flange with my thumb. But I was too late. The line went limp. I jiggled the rod tip a few times, hoping the bass might swim free. There was no pressure. Evidently it had used the slack to shake loose.

Rowing over the pads, I peered into the clear water. A few feet under the surface I could see the spoon sparkling, impaled on a hyacinth root. I hit at it with the oar and knocked it loose.

I moved quietly parallel to shore, pitching the spoon beyond the lily pads. Shortly an eager yearling thrashed clear of the water as it nailed the spoon behind a pad. It pitched over on its back and tried to get to the protection of the plants. But I gingerly eased it out and brought it home. It went back to grow up.

This was more like it. For the better part of the morning I had been casting fruitlessly, running through just about everything in my tackle box. I left my ace-in-the-hole until last. It was a Johnson Silver Minnow spoon with a length tail of porkrind. Ten minutes after I'd clipped it on the end of my line, I was in business. It was the bass which got in the hyacinths and struggled free. Now, only a few minutes later, I had handled my first bass of the day. Things were looking up.

About one-hundred feet down the shoreline and it happened. I plopped the spoon between two big lily pads and a bass had it almost before it kissed the surface. The acrobatic fish squirted out of the water on the strike like a guided missile leaving its launching pad, turned a somersault in mid-air, and slapped the water on its side. Dashing a few quick feet it came springing skyward again, gyrating its head frantically. When it disappeared beneath the surface it sprinted hellbent for the protection of the hyacinths. I stopped it short, worked it into open water and allowed it to fight itself out.

This one pushed the scale needle down to four-and-a-half pounds.

When I eventually quit at dusk, there were five bass on my stringer. Four bettered three pounds apiece. No record performance, I'll admit, but the spoon had saved the day.

That was no isolated incident. Many times I've had the spoon deliver when other baits failed. If I ever

Five largemouth bass caught by the author on spoons when all else failed.

got to the point where I'd have to cull my baits to one single artificial, I'd unhesitatingly pick the dependable spoon. It is the most versatile of all lures.

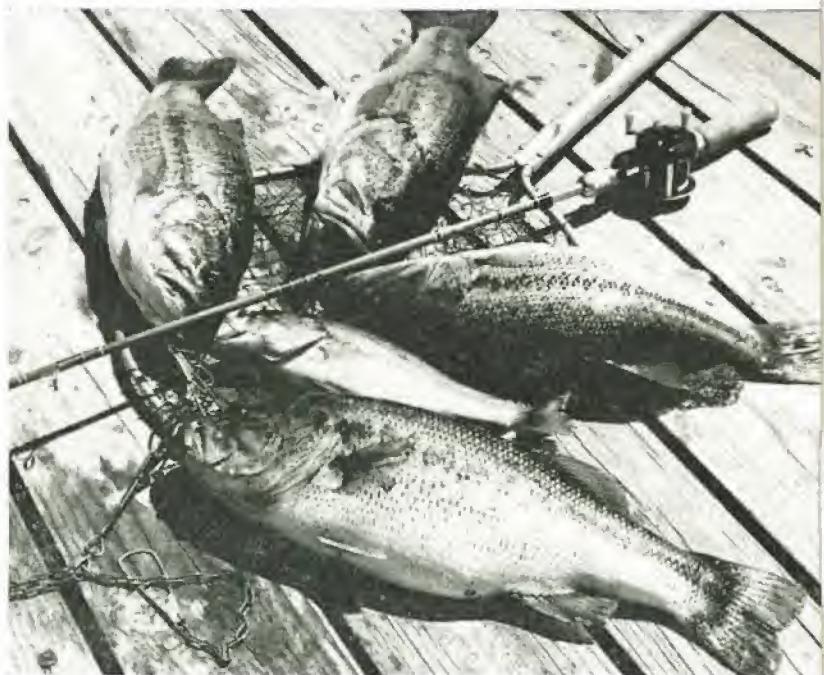
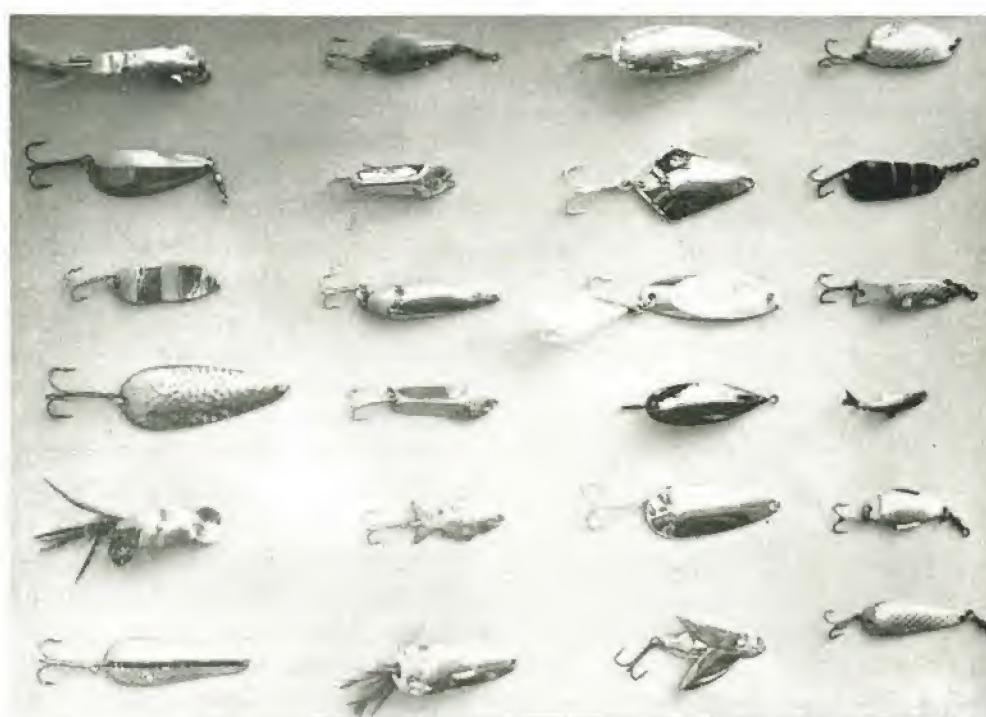
The appeal of the spoon is basic. Everywhere bass feed on minnows. When you duplicate the bass' main source of food with an artificial, naturally you are going to catch fish. In places most of a bass' diet is composed of minnows; at others it may eat few minnows. That is why a spoon will produce better in some lakes and streams than others.

As much as anyone knows to the contrary, the spoon is the oldest of all fresh-water fishing baits. Its history dates back to 3000 B.C. when ancient Romans improvised polished clam shells with hooks to catch fish. It has been a time-honored producer of fish in America for more than a century. Probably the first spoon in this country was manufactured by Julio T. Buel in 1898. His initial lures were constructed of pure silver since he reasoned this flashy material came closest to imitating a white fish belly.

Buel originally got the idea for a spoon when he tossed some white pebbles into a Vermont brook and noticed that trout rose to them. Later, as he was eating lunch one day, he accidentally dropped a tablespoon into the water. He watched as it wobbled and twisted toward bottom. He'd experimented with various designs to make pieces of metal spin, but the convex face was a revolutionary find.

He promptly got a spoon, soldered a hook in the face and drilled a hole in the handle for the line.

Spoons come in every shape, size and design imaginable.



Fish went mad over the new-found lure. Buel was in business. All spoons today are modeled after this same ancient design.

Nowadays, spoons are manufactured in every shape and size and design imaginable. But basically, each spoon is nothing more than a piece of metal which flashes as it wobbles or spins to attract fish. Probably your children's kids and every future generation will use the spoon successfully to catch fish. While other lures have come and gone, the spoon continues to be one of the most popular of all fishing baits.

A spoon is versatile. It can be fished at about any depth and about any speed. Usually, a slow retrieve is best, just where the convex piece of metal tick-tocks. A spoon tends to twist the line, even with a swivel. The secret is to reel just fast enough where the spoon wobbles rather than spins.

Sometimes I've discovered the spoon produces best on bass when snailed along the bottom; on others when retrieved briskly just under the surface. I've even caught bass by dancing one on top. It is rather difficult to work a spoon on the surface properly. Start reeling the moment the spoon touches the water. Don't let it sink. Pendulum your rod back and forth as you reel, stopping for a split-second when it is at a vertical position. This will keep the spoon on top, skipping along.

A spoon will take all fish which  
(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page) feed on minnows, and this encompasses practically every predator game fish. Me, I like it best for bass. My favorites are a black spoon with either a black plastic worm tail or a long strip of white porkrind; a silver spoon and porkrind tail; and a silver spoon with either a white or black bucktail. A spoon with a single weedless hook can be fished through most obstructions without fouling. Frequently this is the reason why it pays off when other lures fail.

You've got to put the bait right in with the bass to catch them.

As to popularity, the silver spoon which wobbles is the best seller. Gold is another favorite color, especially when fished in slightly murky waters. Black is a productive color, too. Some spoons are painted white and red, black and white or various other color combinations. They often are dressed in "frills" to add to their appeal. Bucktails are popular, as is the old standby, porkrind. The spoon and plastic worm creation is one of

the newest innovations. Some anglers add spinners fore of the spoons to add to their flash.

Try as manufacturers may, they never have come up with a better design than the old table spoon convex shape, hence the name "spoon." There's something about the appeal of a wobbling spoon which can't be beat. Always carry a varied assortment tucked back in your tackle box. When everything else fails, the old dependable spoon is apt to be your key to success. ●

## FISHING (Continued from page 9)

anise odor. He bought a small bottle of this oil and put it in his tackle box but never got around to trying it (this is the fate of most of our exploratory ideas).

On a trip with friends to Lake

Okeechobee, his bottle of anise oil got broken and spilled out in his tackle box, stinking up the whole works including his lures. Toby says his "luck" on this trip was riding high. He not only outfished his com-

panions but had a really fine catch while they were getting skunked, using the same kind of tackle and casting from the same boat. This is the old story but this time with a new twist. How about that oil of anise bath? Anyhow, it's something to think about. ●

## BALANCE WHEEL

(Continued from page 7)

cially when Indians are around.

### Camp Preference Check Sheets

Counselors this year worked very closely with each camper by interview. Subject check lists were compiled and the counselor helped the camper to schedule his or her activities for the week—Nature and Conservation or Campcraft.

Waterfront with its swimming and other programs was not optional.

### Other Check Sheets

Check sheets for campers' personal clothing, weekly health charts, daily health checks, etc., were used this year.

A workshop tent for projects to be initiated and completed was another new device this year to help the camper in the field of Nature and Conservation. The Workshop Tent was directed by Chuck Bindner. Project worksheets were mimeographed and listed specific and detailed work projects in each of the areas.

Special sites were selected for demonstration and participation of Campcrafts. These were: Ropercraft,

Firecraft, Toolcraft, Gear, Shelters, Map and Compass, Food and Cook-outs, and others.

A special camping program was the Hunter Safety training. A four-hour course for the youngsters in safety of handling rifles was given. All those passing the examination qualified to shoot on the rifle range. Special certificates were awarded.

Waterfront this year was very special thanks to John Christie who directed this activity. His assistant,

Dick Harksin, did a very commendable performance. So did Ray Anderson and Jim Cole.

There are so many different things to tell about in this past summer's encampment, pages could be spelled interesting ideas created for our out here and there would still be more to tell. Perhaps another time we can review some of the new and camp.

The first Scout in the State of Florida to earn the rank of Chief Ranger has completed his assignments and merit badges and is now a full Ranger.

His name is Walter Yongue, III, a member of Explorer Post 228. Walter is from Anthony, Florida. His citation was given at a Court of Honor, June 30, 1959, at the Marion County Court House.

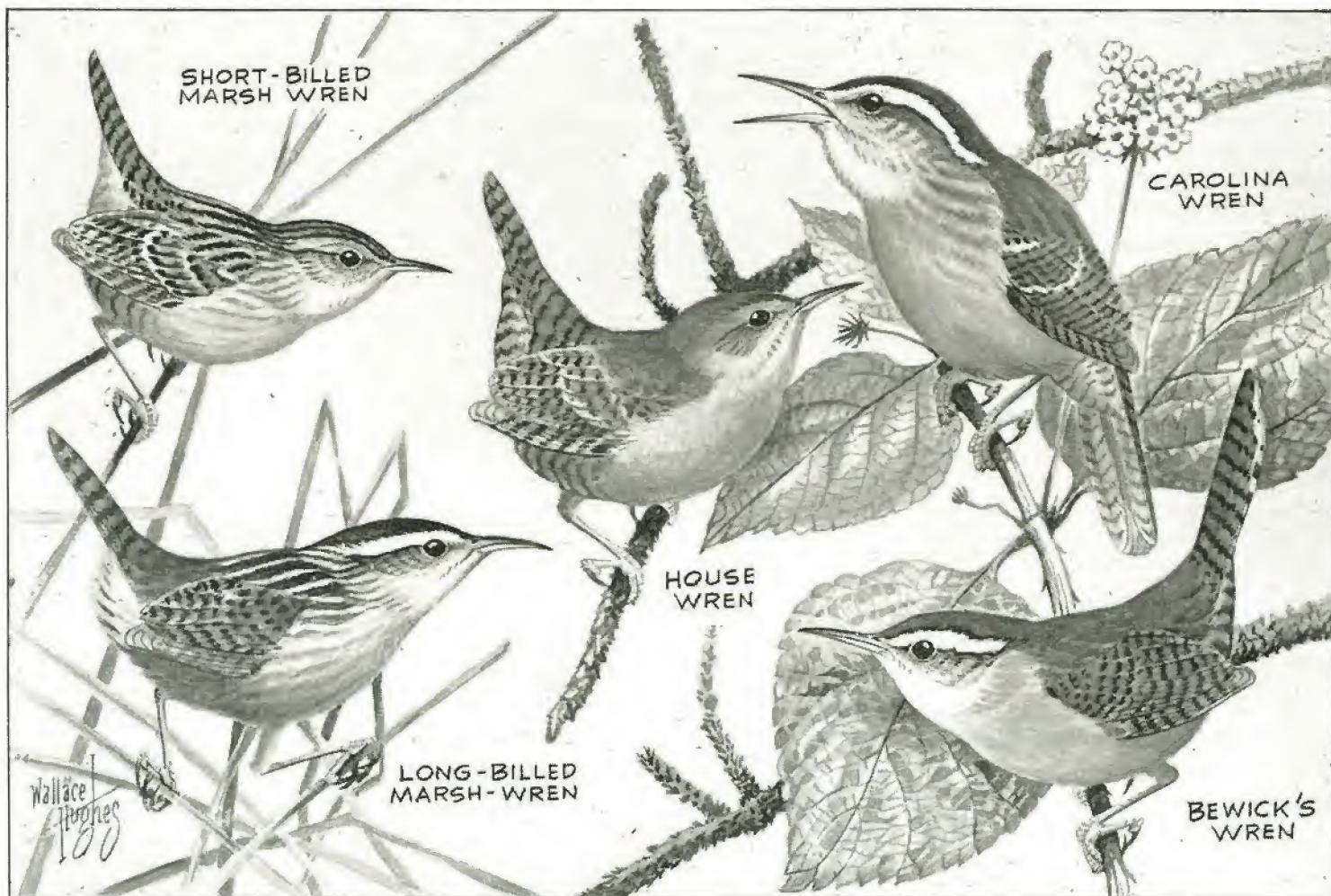
This rank is the first to be given in the jointly sponsored program of Florida Boy Scout Councils and the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

Our very best congratulations. We understand he is helping his brother to make Ranger.

So far in the state there are 21 Rangers and one Chief Ranger. ●



# FLORIDA BIRDLIFE



## House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*.

The House Wren is a small bird averaging about  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length. Its plumage is brownish above with dull white to grayish underparts. The olive-brown tail is marked with darker bars as are the wings.

Although it is seasonally a common species throughout the entire state, the house wren does not nest here. It is not until shorter days and lowering temperatures herald the fall season that this wren moves southward into Florida. During the warmer months it is to be found from southern New Brunswick and Quebec into Ontario and southward into Kentucky and Virginia. Late September usually sees the first of the house wrens in Florida. By mid-April all but the stragglers have departed for the north.

Brushy areas are the house wren's main feeding grounds. Here they rustle about busily seeking a variety

of insects for such comprise the main portion of the animal material that makes up the diet.

In the north, where it is present during the nesting season, the species is quite bold and is therefore easily observed. There it readily accepts the birdhouse nesting sites erected in residential sections. This predilection for areas of human habitation has given the species its common name.

During the winter season when it is present in Florida, it is more secretive in its activities, usually staying close to the thickets where it does much of its feeding. Its call, a deep grating chatter or scold, is one of the characteristic sounds of the winter woodlands.

## Bewick's Wren,

### *Thryomanes bewickii*.

Similar to the Carolina wren in general appearance is Bewick's Wren. It is readily separated from

the Carolina by the white edging of the tail feathers characteristic of the Bewick's however. The bird is slender in body conformation and the long fanlike tail is constantly being flirted from side to side.

A nester in states further north, Bewick's Wren is present in Florida during the fall and winter seasons only. The birds begin arriving in the state by the early part of October during most years. The latter part of March sees most of them on the way toward their chosen nesting areas.

From the central part of the state northward and westward in the Panhandle is the area in which the bird is most likely to be encountered within Florida. It has been reported from Highlands County some miles westward from Lake Okeechobee although this far south it is definitely of rare occurrence.

(Continued on next page)

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Alarm notes which are given when an intruder invades the domain of the bird is a somewhat insect-like buzzy sound voiced in a series.

Thickets and brushy woodlands and pastures are the usual habitat of the species. It is here that the insects which comprise the mainstay of the diet are found in greatest abundance.

#### Carolina Wren,

*Thryothorus ludovicianus.*

The largest of Florida's wrens is the species which averages about 5 3/4 inches in length. In general body form it is chunky. The upperparts are reddish brown, the plumage below buff. A white line extends from over the eye back to the shoulder region. The tail is marked with dark narrow barrings as are the wings.

The Carolina Wren is found throughout the entire state, although some scientists separate those of peninsular Florida into a subspecies. There is no practical way of identifying the subspecies in the field and both birds are here treated as the same.

The Carolina Wren is a year round resident of the state from the vicinity of Key Largo northward. April and May are the months of nesting activities here. A great variety of sites provide nesting locations for these birds. Natural cavities in trees, protected places about buildings, thickets and garden shrubs, bird houses, even such unconventional places as old shoes, hats, jars, and pitchers that have been left lying about may provide a nursery for a brood of young wrens. The 4 to 6 white eggs are finely specked with reddish brown.

Although they may be somewhat retiring in nature during the winter months, it is seldom difficult to spot the Carolina Wren in suitable habitat. During most of the year they are quite bold and will frequently approach an observer as if interested in getting a closer look themselves.

The bird gives voice to its characteristic call at all seasons of the year and at any time during the day. Its song is loud and rollicking, consisting of a two or three note whistled phrase usually repeated several times. It also has a chirring call note that could be called a drawn out trill.

Insects comprise most of the diet although bayberry, poison ivy berries and similar vegetable food may be taken now and again.

#### Long-billed Marsh Wren,

*Telmatodytes palustris.*

This little bird is at home in the salt marsh areas along the Gulf coast northward from Tampa Bay and along the Atlantic from the Georgia line at least as far southward as New Smyrna.

In average length the long-billed marsh wren is about five inches. The white-streaked plumage pattern of the back is a distinguishing characteristic of the marsh wren tribe. A prominent white eyeline borders the solid colored crown in this species.

In its nesting activities, the marsh wren is ambitious, frequently constructing several dummy nests in addition to the one that is actually used. The female builds the actual nest while the male works on the

dummy ones. The nest is a rounded collection of vegetation firmly woven into the supporting stems of marsh plants. It is roughly the size of a coconut and contains an inner chamber lined with fine grasses and feathers. There is an entrance hole in the side of the nest, usually on the lower part. Four to six eggs, pale chocolate in ground color and heavily marked with darker specklings, comprise the clutch. May is the main nesting month in Florida.

The trilling, bubbling song is a characteristic marshland sound, especially during the nesting season. At that period it sings endlessly during the day and frequently even during the hours of darkness.

As with the other wrens, insects comprise nearly the entire diet.

#### Short-billed Marsh Wren,

*Cistothorus platensis.*

In size, the short-billed marsh wren is smaller than its long-billed relative, averaging only about four inches in total length. Its smaller bill and the streaked pattern of the head plumage are other characteristics that set the short-bill apart.

It is a breeding species from the central Canadian provinces and Maine southward into Delaware, Indiana, Missouri, and Kansas. In Florida, the bird is a common winter resident in most parts of the state. They arrive here in late October or November and remain until the latter part of April or until early May.

It is a bird of the salt marshes but is not nearly as confined to that particular type of habitat as is the long-billed marsh wren. As a matter of fact it shows some preference for fresh water marshlands and it is frequently seen about brushy fields and pastures well removed from any marsh.

It is one of the birds that responds well to squeaking on the back of the hand, usually coming forth boldly to see what is going on. The animal material that makes up almost the entire diet consists mainly of insects. ●



"It still doesn't smell any too good to ME!"

## ON MY HONOR JIM

(Continued from page 23)

"I already got it. The badge for firemaking. But I'll be glad to help you out if you're stuck."

I draw myself up haughtily. I say, "Your English is atrocious. I certainly am not 'Stuck'. But you undoubtedly have your own methods of starting a fire, so I shall merely stand by with suggestions, if needed."

I say, briskly, "And now to work. Here is a match!"

Which is a mistake, for reaching into my pocket, my soggy suit reminds me that the matches are all soaked. I open my mouth to set in motion a train of thought which will lead their minds away from this sticky situation, when he speaks.

"Oh no sir, not matches. The Indians never used them. Except maybe on television!"

He laughs heartily at his own joke. The others join him.

I grin feebly.

He lays down the two scooped out blocks of wood he's whittled, reaches over and cuts two thin branches from a nearby tree. Squinting down them critically, he asks, "Will they do, sir?"

Will they do, I wonder? Will they do what, you imp? If you mean them for bandleading purposes, they are ideal. Are you proposing to use them as oars with which to paddle to the Dominican Republic? Then they appear a trifle thin. I don't know whether or not they'll 'Do', you young scoundrel, and you know I don't!

These are my thoughts, but of course I don't voice them. Instead I inspect the sticks. I hold them at arms length. I test their strength. I whip them back and forth. I balance them.

I say, "Yes. Hmm. Ah, indeed."

Cagy again.

Next he pulls up a handful of moss and rubs it until only some brown is left. This unappetizing mess he holds up for my approval.

I approve. What else can I do?

He asks, "Any mistakes so far, sir?"

My chuckle has a hollow ring.

"No, my lad, you're doing splendidly. Splendidly. Carry on!"

My puzzlement increases, however, as he takes a long leather lace from one of his boots and ties it to one of the thin branches, winding up with a crude looking bow. It is obvious from the rapt expressions on the others' faces that they've never seen a demonstration of this type. Come to think of it, I can't seem to recall anything similar from my scouting days either, although there is no doubt whatsoever that if I had ever been exposed to it, I would have certainly remembered it, you can bank on that!

At this point he offers the bow, asking, "Would you like to start the fire, sir?"

Well, I would. I would like to start it in his pocket, if the truth be known, but I am too much of a diplomat to say so. Besides, what

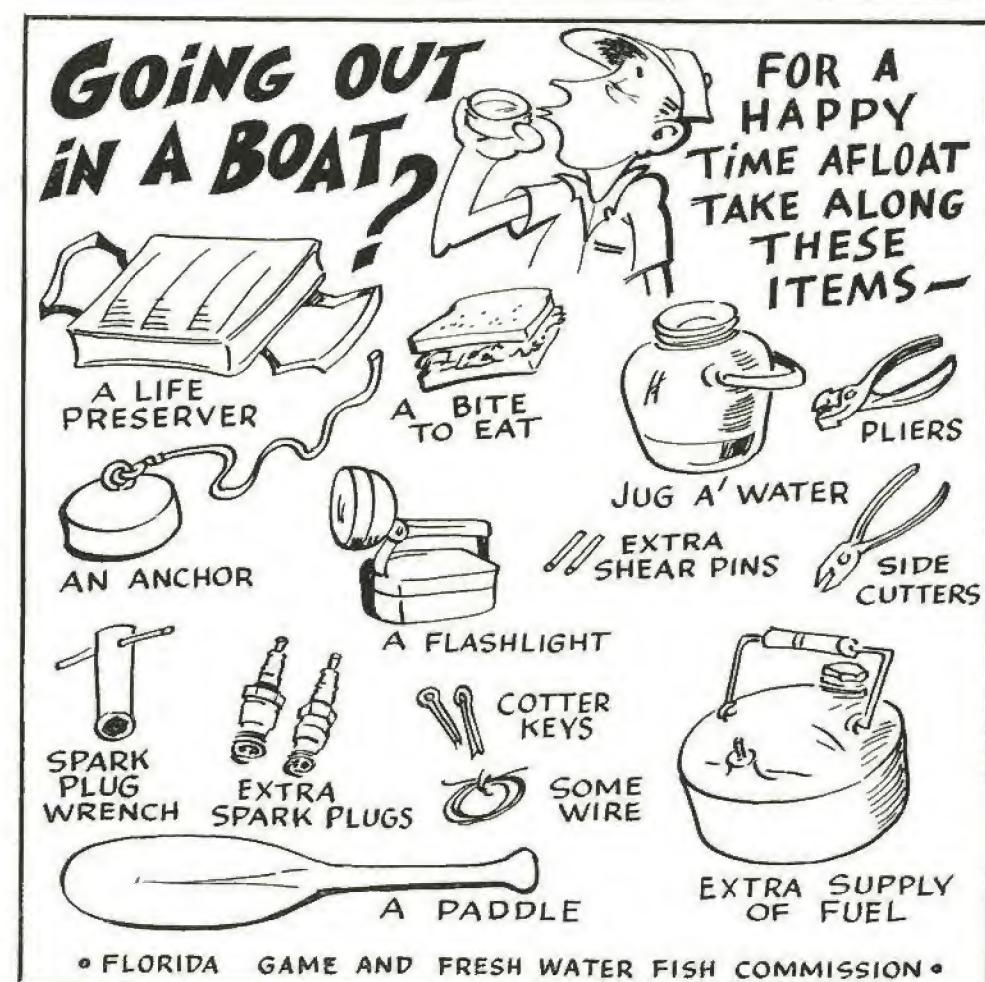
is the infernal gadget supposed to do? I'm cagy once more.

"No no. Carry on, my boy."

He does. After twisting the second branch into the thong of his home made bow, he places one end of it into the moss filled block lying on the ground, grips the stick's other end with the second block and proceeds to saw back and forth on the bow. Naturally, as he does, the crosstick revolves rapidly. He continues in this fashion for awhile with nothing happening, but then, as he speeds up the motion, I am amazed to see a wisp of smoke come curling up from the moss. I mean, frankly, I would sooner bet that I am King Farouk than that he would actually succeed in making that Rube Goldberg contrivance pay off.

But it does. He leans over, blows on it a trifle, increases the speed even more, and a second later an orange tongue of flame bursts from the mossy bed and licks up the side of the whittled shavings. He feeds it

(Continued on next page)



(Continued from preceding page) the rest of the bark and soon we are gathered around a swiftly growing, wonderfully warming fire.

The others are tremendously impressed by this exhibition and give voice to a resounding cheer. It's a sickening spectacle. I am about to point out that what they have witnessed is merely the basic principle of friction, but before I open my mouth, Jack says, "Sorry it took so long sir, but the moss wasn't too dry at this time of day. Later would have been better. Why are you scratchin' so hard?"

I say, "Your pronunciation appalls me. Have you never learned to use the i-n-g ending? It is 'scratching', not 'scratchin'. I am scratching because I itch. It is customary when itching, for the itcher to scratch. You . . ."

I pause. I am scratching!

I say, "That's odd!"

He says, "No, it ain't."

"What?"

"When a guy stands in poison ivy, so what's odd if he scratches?"

I leap five feet.

"Good grief! Have we been standing in poison ivy?"

"No, sir," he tells me. "We haven't. Just you. You walked off by yourself when you got mad 'cause I could make a fire and you couldn't and you wanted to cuss but you didn't want us to know you were cussin', and that's when you did it."

My voice is low and steely.

"You miserable delinquent, if you knew it was ivy, why didn't you warn me?"

He looks hurt.

He tells me, "I thought you were doing it deliberately, to show some of these guys first hand what the rash looks like!"

I scratch. I shake my head. I scratch. My shoulders sag. I scratch.

I say, "It is time to go. Everybody follow me."

I turn without another glance and march off.

Behind me I can hear the scufflings and shufflings as they assemble, and the running steps as they seek to catch up with me.

After a few moments I pause to take stock. Everyone is there but young Jack Stuart.

I say, "Where is young Jack Stuart?"

Their voices babble in one lump of vocal confusion, the main theme of which is easily understood.

"Jack is putting out the fire."

"Jack's father says only a fool leaves a fire in the forest."

"Jack's father says . . ."

I raise my hand for silence. I say, "Listen to me. You will all shut up. The whole monkey chattering crew of you. You will all just shut-your-innocent-little-mouths!"

I turn and march . . . and that's the reason we get here so silently, Mr. Anders.

I am going home now, to see if I can't do something about this damned poison ivy. It is only eleven thirty, so Jim should be here soon to take these . . . these . . . these children out for whatever he has in mind. But if you're at all a friend of his, Mr. Anders, you'll warn him. Warn him about what he's up against. Don't let him go out there unprotected—he'd never survive it.

Oh yes, and one more thing. Give him a message, will you? Tell him the next time he wants someone for a sucker detail like this, to please count me out. I mean, I've had it!

So long. ●

## GAME REGULATIONS

(Continued from page 10)

through November 29 and December 25 through January 3 in Hardee, Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties, and that portion of Hillsborough county south of U. S. Highway 92; Pinellas county closed at all times. In Second District, that portion of Columbia county south of State Road 18 and east of U. S. Highway 441 closed at all times. Special Third District, Northwest Florida, Spring turkey gobbler (hens protected) hunting season April 2 through April 10, with morning hunting only. In the Fourth District, special season in Collier county from November 21 through November 29 and December 25 through January 3.

**Quail**—Daily bag limit of 10, with no season bag limit. Opens one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, No-

vember 21, and closes one-half hour after sunset Sunday, February 14.

**Squirrel**—Daily bag limit of 10

grey squirrels and two fox squirrels, with no season bag limit. Opens one-half hour before sunrise Saturday, November 21, and closes one-half hour after sunset, Sunday, February 14.

**Black Bear**—Legal game during open deer season and special managed hunts only. Daily and seasonal bag limited to one. Cub bears protected at all times.

**Other Species: Rabbit**—Hunting licenses needed to take either cottontail or swamp rabbit during hunting season. **Wild Hogs**—Game animals in certain wildlife management areas during open seasons designated for each area, with bag limit of one per day and two per season. **Doe and Fawn Deer**—Protected at all times in all areas. **Cub Bear**—Protected at all times in all areas. **Panther**—Protected in all areas, at all times. ●



# dog chatter

By GEORGE CROWLEY

**S**PORTING DOG OWNERS have the same feeding problems as pet owners — magnified. They usually own more than one dog, and those dogs may be called upon to run the hills for many hours a day.

To keep a sporting dog in top condition, three factors must be considered in selecting his food — quality, convenience and cost. And there are three general types of foods to give him — homemade mixtures, commercial canned food and meal.

Home prepared foods involve knowing your dietetics if you are going to achieve a balanced diet. If the ingredients are purchased especially for the dog, they are apt to be expensive. If table scraps are used, the cost goes down, but so does the quality.

The best grades of canned dog food probably provide as fine a diet as a dog can get anywhere, and are the most convenient. On the basis of cost, they are probably less than especially purchased foods, but a little more than meal, which is generally the least expensive of all.

Meal type foods used to be considered by some experts to be an incomplete diet because they lacked sufficient fat. But a few years ago researchers developed a way to maintain quality in animal fats without refrigeration and today the best meals are a complete diet. In tests on litter mates in Swift Nutritional Research Kennels in Chicago, puppies fed entirely on Pard Meal gained weight and stamina just as fast as their brothers and sisters fed on canned foods.

But what do most sporting dog owners actually feed?

A survey of several hundred dog owners showed that most of them varied their dogs' diets according to situation. Canned foods were particularly popular for feeding in the field. Meal seemed to form the backbone of most diets. But milk, beef,



oat meal, and venison were all mentioned as supplementary rations.

The sportsman is still an individualist.

## Bench and Field

The field trial man rates a dog on its ability to do the things for which its breed was originated. The bench show man rates a dog on beauty alone — or at least on a set of standards which take great account of beauty.

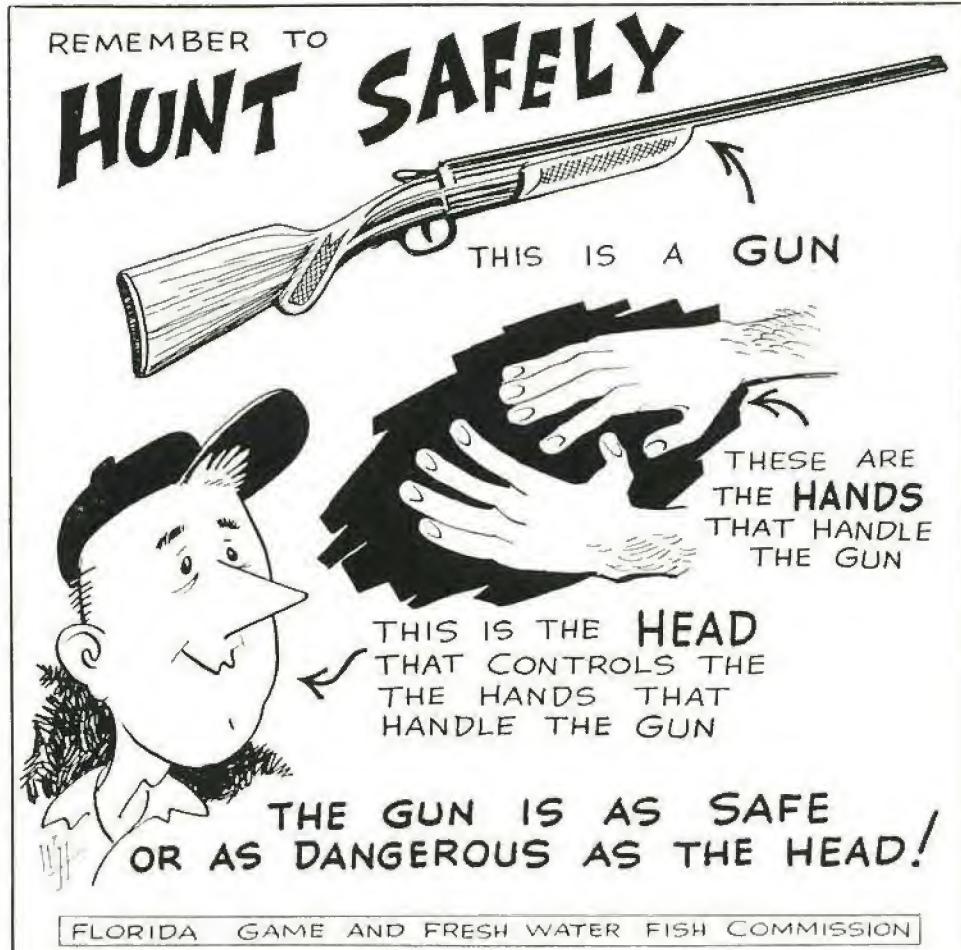
Both have their place in improving the various breeds of dogs. But among hunting dogs there is certainly reason to feel that the policy of breeding to bench show standards with no regard for ability in the field has done more harm than good.

A case in point would be the Irish Setter. Once fine bird dogs, they

became popular for show purposes because of their natural beauty. Bench show points became more important than either desire to hunt or the physical characteristics which make a good field dog. And breeders naturally followed the market.

Beautiful dogs were bred with beautiful dogs. But as the progeny became more and more handsome, their hunting abilities receded progressively. For, while there is no basic reason why a hunting dog cannot be both a bench show champion and a fine hunter, the hunting ability is an inherited trait that, once lost, is difficult to bring back.

But, as in all things, the pendulum swings, and lovers of the big red dogs are now trying to bring them back as a first class hunting dog. The National Red Setter Field Trial Club, for instance, is holding field trials and encouraging the use of top quality field dogs for breeding. Many are now able to run in any company, and each generation of puppies brings a higher percentage of real gun dogs. •





**T**O MOST SHOOTERS, a telescopic sight on a rifle is generally regarded as a helpful sighting aid. To older shooters with failing or defective eyesight a scope can often be salvation from increasing discouragement, a literal last hope for holding their own against Father Time and companions blessed with younger and better focussing vision.

But the idea of using a scope sight on a shotgun is not too popular. Many older shotgunning refuse to even consider the idea. In refusing to review the "pros" along with the "cons", they simply do not realize the potential benefits of a scope sight on their shotgun.

As might be surmised by the analytical type of reader, objections of older shooters frequently are associated with sad personal experience with an optical shotgun sight. In fact, when pressed to substantiate opinions, many objectors will refer to the Dodo-bird status of the Nydar shotgun sight which enjoyed a brief, signal - flare type of popularity among early post-World War II products.

By chance, the Nydar shotgun sight's appearance on the market coincided with a weekly radio outdoor-theme question and answer forum sponsored by the maker of a popular brand of pipe tobacco. Sportsmen were encouraged to sub-

mit questions relating to hunting and fishing to a panel of experts, who answered them during broadcasts. Kits of merchandise prizes were given those listeners whose questions were selected for panel discussion. Just about every prize-kit awarded included a Nydar shotgun sight. Undoubtedly, the inclusion had much to do with the product's quick recognition and trial by shotgunning.

After examining and field testing the Nydar sight, Elmer Keith and this Gun Editor (at the time writing for another outdoor publication) refused to climb aboard the publicity bandwagon. Time proved the decision to be a wise one.

To those readers not personally familiar with the Nydar shotgun sight during its brief heyday of popularity, an explanation of exactly what it was and how it worked may be interesting.

In essence, the Nydar was a reflector-type sight. Its working principle was the same optical principle embodied in sights used on aircraft armament in World War II.

In the case of the Nydar shotgun sight, a prism projected a circle of light around the target, along with the sight's big aiming-bead reticule. The shooter merely looked through



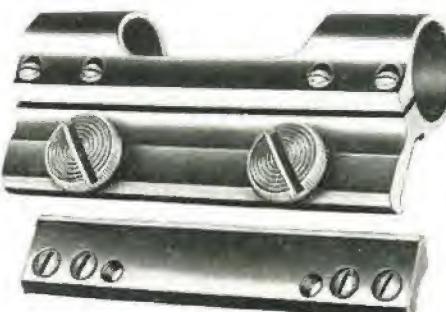
a large rear or reflector plate-lens and centered the projected semi-transparent aiming dot on his target. When correctly adjusted, the center dot coincided with the impact point of the shot load.

At 50 yards the projected aiming dot appeared approximately one foot in diameter, and the projected outer ring approximately four feet in diameter. Any target caught anywhere near the center of the circle was supposed to be a dead bird.

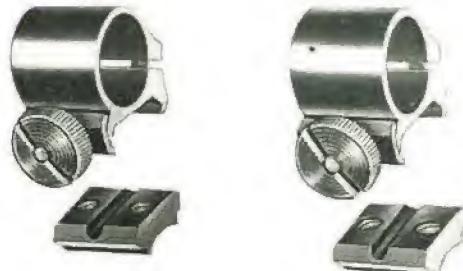
The installation of the Nydar sight was accomplished by drilling and tapping two screw holes on the top or on one side of the receivers of pump and autoloading shotguns. On double barrel models the installation was made close to the breech end of the center rib.

The two screws served to permanently fasten the base section of the sight's two-piece assembly to the gun. A large, knurled screw fastened the sight itself to the special base.

After mounting and assembly, rough adjustments brought about the alignment of the sight with the bore of the gun. Final adjustments for windage and elevation were made after patterning the gun on



Low-based Weaver top and side mounts, for holding shotgun scope sight in proper position, can be fitted to single shot, pump and autoloading shotguns having steel receivers. Either style permits quick removal and replacement of scope. Choice of mounting is not always optional, as some gun models will accept only one style.



several cardboard test targets. Once the sight was adjusted to give shot pattern impact coinciding with the center dot of the aiming reticule, the sight-section could be removed and replaced without affecting the established alignment. This last was a practical feature, although it probably owed its incorporation to the mounted sight's obvious vulnerability to transportation hazards.

The theory of the Nydar sight held tremendous appeal to shotgunners when it first appeared—particularly among those personally plagued with chronic missing. Unfortunately, the sight did not meet field needs and expectations. Against a cloudy, poorly lighted sky, and certain field conditions, the projected circle and aiming dot often failed to show up. Once the fad of first trial had passed, shooters discarded their impractical purchases for the more familiar and reliable ivory bead type of shotgun sight. Today, Nydar sights cannot be found in sporting goods stores, and a personally owned model is practically a collector's item.

The failure of the product soured quick introduction and wide acceptance of the very practical Weaver Model K1 shotgun scope sight, now beginning to receive just recognition after having effectively proved itself in the hands of die-hard experimenters. Actually, there is a world of difference between the defunct Nydar optical sight and the current Weaver K1 shotgun scope, both in principle and application.

When properly installed and adjusted, the Weaver K1 scope is probably the fastest and most accurate of shotgun sights. Although it provides no magnification of target, the K1 gives accurate, single-plane sighting through a tube that provides a broad, clear field of view in which the aiming reticule stands out boldly for the aiming eye to quickly pick up and align. It is an especially good sight for a shotgunner with poor vision, because the scope's eyepiece can be focused to give him a sharp sight picture.

To better appreciate the practical



While a telescopic sight on a rifle is generally regarded as a very helpful sighting aid, the idea of using a scope on a shotgun is not too popular.

sighting features of the Weaver K1 scope for shotguns, it is necessary to digress a bit and review shotguns and aiming in general. For the moment, all statements will apply to shotguns lacking a scope sight or any type of installed rear sight.

Despite the partly true claim that a shotgun is more often pointed than deliberately aimed, the shooter's aiming eye and the center of his shotgun's breech or rib team up to create a rear sight. Consciously or subconsciously, a line of sight is drawn between the shooter's aiming eye and his shotgun's front sight. If the position of the aiming eye varies, so will the resultant line of aim and accuracy, which explains why expert shotgunners take care to place the face in the same position on the stock for each shot.

Anything that helps achieve this desired uniform, repeated alignment of aiming eye and exact center of gun breech or barrel rib can be considered beneficial to the shooter....

Now, let's switch back to the subject of the Weaver K1 scope sight on a shotgun....

With the scope, the alignment of the aiming eye can vary a half an inch or so sideways, and possibly as much as four inches fore and aft; just so long as the eye can see into the scope, aim will be accurate. This in itself automatically eliminates

many errors of aim common among shotgunners.

Since the shooter instantly sees both his target and aiming point when he looks into the scope tube, he can perfectly judge his required lead on angle shots, and can also do fast, accurate shooting on game running in the open and in thick brush. For the waterfowler attempting difficult pass shooting, who must have the minimum of error in his gun pointing, the Weaver K1 scope should be an especially helpful sighting aid.

Likewise, really accurate use of shotgun slugs in pumps and autoloaders for deer hunting calls for some kind of adjustable rear sight that permits taking aim much as one does with a rifle. For such use, the Weaver K1 shotgun scope is ideal because the shooter can adjust his conspicuous aiming dot reticule to coincide with the impact point of the slugs. Once sighted-in, he can hit where he aims.

Any failure of the Weaver K1 scope sight to do its intended job for the shotgunner can usually be traced to some contributory cause, not in the sight itself....

To be of value, a scope sight must be correctly positioned and firmly mounted. The slightest movement of the scope tube or holding rings and bases will cause the gun to shoot

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from preceding page)

inaccurately. A good mounting job will hold the scope tube rigidly and in correct position. Just follow the sheet of printed instructions packed with each scope and mount.

Before attempting the mounting job, however, you must first focus your new shotgun scope for your individual eyesight. Weaver recommends that you steadily support the scope at arm's length, a couple of feet from your aiming eye, and train it on some easily seen object, such as a billboard, 30 to 50 yards distant. (With the scope tube held so far from your eye, you won't be able to see its full field of view, but what you see through the center will be sufficient.) Your next instruction is to shift the position of your head quickly so your aiming eye first sees the object in the scope and then outside of it.

When the shotgun scope is correctly focused, the object viewed through the scope should appear the same size as when seen with the naked eye.

If it appears larger in the scope, the ocular or focusing eyepiece has been turned out too far; if smaller, the eyepiece has been screwed in too far. After completing the focus-

ing, turn the focus-locking ring tight so the eyepiece will not change focus.

When mounting the scope on the gun, it is very important that you get the ocular or eye-viewing end of the scope tube correctly positioned for your aiming eye. It will be in correct position when you instantly see the scope's entire field of view, without having to relocate the position of your face when you throw the gun to shoulder. To make certain you aren't unconsciously moving your face ever so slightly to compensate for an existing eye relief error, throw the shotgun to shoulder several times with eyes closed, then open them. Each time, you should instantly see a full, clear picture of the scope reticule and encompassing field. If the picture is seen "black-ringed," or suddenly blots out, then the ocular end of the scope is not at correct distance from your aiming eye when you correctly shoulder and aim the gun.

Where the scope sight is mounted on a shotgun having a low comb, it may be necessary to attach a lace-on comb pad to bring the comb to proper level with the aiming eye and to enable the stock's comb to properly support the shooter's face. If

you have to pull your face away from the gun stock comb to a higher level (to put your aiming eye in direct alignment with the ocular end of the scope), then you need to build up comb height.

Before all scope mounting screws are tightened up to withstand the jolting normal to firing and field handling, check to see that scope reticule is straight. This is accomplished by slightly turning the entire scope in its temporarily loosened rings.

The Weaver K1 shotgun scope sight can be had with choice of several reticule styles. For all-around use, this Gun Editor recommends the reticule that has fine cross wires and combined big dot at their intersection. Where the shotgun is to be used solely for slug-shooting of deer, the bold post style of reticule may be advantageously selected.

Due to the fact that most side-by-side double barreled shotguns are made with barrels aligned to give cross-fire effect at a particular distance, installation of a scope sight on a double is usually disappointing. But for single shot models, pumps and autoloaders with steel receivers, the Weaver K1 shotgun scope is a very practical and efficient shooting aid. ●

## GRASS, BASS AND BUGS

(Continued from page 21)

or three anglers go out together they'll get more fishing afoot.

A common cause of failure for an evening bass-bugging expedition is the early start. ("Everybody's ready so let's go on out even if it is only 2 o'clock.")

So you're on the scene at 2:30 and by 6 o'clock you're so tired of sloshing through grass that by 7 o'clock when the fish start striking you're back at the fish camp having supper. If it's dark at say 8 p.m., I'd guess the fishing should start at about 5:30, and a lot of bass are unhooked by flashlight.

In Florida, high tennis shoes and old clothes are fine for summer wad-

ing. Those high canvas "jungle boots" they used to issue to the armed services are perfect but most of the war surplus stores seem to have sold out.



"How stupid can you get? Telling me to HOP in the canoe."

Bathing trunks aren't so good as you can get pretty well scratched up in bassy waters. A fishing vest is an excellent investment if the water isn't too deep. Otherwise, stick a couple of spare bugs into your hat and go to it.

After you've kept your eyes glued to a bug for an hour with no result, it is marvelous how a bass can tell the exact moment when you glance over at a water snake or turn to glare at a passing speedboat. That is when he strikes, spits out your bug and goes on about his business.

Actually, it isn't entirely coincidence. The chances are that when you turned to gawk around your bug did something different. Usually it simply lay still for a while and surface lures are worked too fast

for bass about nine-tenths of the time.

I once knew a successful fly fisherman who never moved his bug. He just cast it, let it lie for a minute or so and then cast again. His success was amazing but I'm sure there are times when motion and plenty of it will get better results — especially if the water is cloudy and deep.

Variety is the spice of bug manipulation. Pop it, let it lie for a l-o-o-o-o-o-n-g time, move it steadily for a couple of feet. A bass has more patience than you have. He may lie there and watch a bug for a couple of minutes or longer. Not one fisherman out of a hundred can wait that long unless he stops to light a smoke or apply mosquito dope. But try it a variety of ways. The fish's preference changes from day to day.

When the bass don't want it noisy, I like hair bugs. They take them slowly and quietly, usually on a calm surface. Popping bugs with rubber legs and feather tails can be fished with a slow, swimming motion or jerked into a series of miniature explosions. There are imitation



Towing the boat as you wade isn't much trouble, and it's right there when you want it.

frogs, "feather minnows" and other things that don't look like anything special but may get results. The things that have been found in bass stomachs would stock a natural history museum.

The most common failing of commercially sold bugs is that of too small a hook for a big body. Bass are hard enough to snag when everything is right.

I like to use big single-action reels for all fly fishing but there is nothing wrong with the automatic for bass. It's handy to keep extra line out of the way and bass aren't noted for long runs.

If he gets into open water and wants to take a little trip you can let him go but in the heavy grass it's usually a case of snubbing him pretty close. When convenient, you'll like to play him "from the reel" because that eliminates loose line that can catch your ear at the wrong time. If, however, you happen to have a lot of line in your hand or lying in the water I wouldn't risk giving him slack long enough to get it cranked up.

A bass bug is so light it's hard for a fish to throw and a jump isn't as dangerous as with a spoon or plug. Unless the fish is a real old moss-back you can make him do his jumping against a tight line. For whoppers, it's generally best to slack off a little when they come out. I hope most of your fish are that kind. ●

## FLORIDA CLUB NEWS

(Continued from page 7)

tion" will be the theme of an address by Bud Jackson, field director of the National Wildlife Federation.

Dan Janzen of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, chief of the Bureau of Sports Fishing and Game, will speak at the annual banquet at 7 o'clock Saturday night when the toastmaster will be Judge Walter Mims of Birmingham.

The annual election and business meeting will be at 9 o'clock Sunday morning.

### Awards Program

The awards program of the Florida sportsmen's clubs has been so successful that programs in other states are being patterned after the Florida Wildlife Federation's annual event.

Sponsored by the Sears Roebuck Foundation, the program makes it possible for leaders in various con-

servation fields to receive public recognition for their service and provides medals and cash prizes.

Dr. H. R. Wilber, president of the Federation and chairman of the awards program, recently spoke at a meeting of Sears Foundation directors in Atlanta. It was reported that a plan similar to the Florida set-up is to be started in Georgia. Jim Worthy, vice president of Sears Roebuck, as well as other company officials from all parts of the country attended the Atlanta session.

J. C. Haynes, Sears Roebuck public relations director, commended Wilber upon his contribution to the Atlanta meeting and gave high praise to the Florida program.

The 1959 awards winners will be chosen as in the past and there will be no major change in the program. The period of service to be recognized covers the calendar year. The various clubs are urged to make preparation for their awards and

recommendations well in advance of the year's end.

The program calls for governor's state awards for conservationist of the year and for achievement in outdoor writing, forestry, soil conservation, game and fresh water fish conservation, salt water conservation, public relations, adult guidance of junior conservation effort and junior conservation. Each of the five Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission regions will give awards in outdoor writing, forestry, soil conservation, game and fresh water fish conservation, salt water conservation, club public relations, adult guidance and junior conservation.

Each local club of the federation will give awards for the outstanding conservationist of the area, for best adult guidance of junior conservation effort and for outstanding conservation teaching by a local school teacher. ●

# FLORIDA WILDLIFE FIELD TESTS AND TELLS



Every sportsman should own a reliable compass and know how to use it. Carried and used in conjunction with a map of the local area being traveled, a compass will keep you oriented in respect to camp and related directions and save you many wasted steps.

The variety of available small compasses is surprising when one starts looking around for a good one. There are models of pocket watch, pin-on, wrist, gunstock and watch chain styles as well as those combined with waterproof match boxes and cigarette lighters.

To find an outstanding pocket compass for recommendation to readers of FLORIDA WILDLIFE, FWFT&T examined and tested sixteen different makes and models of small compasses. Basis of selection was on accuracy, simplicity of use, weight, ruggedness and popular price.

Recommended is the "Huntsman", an accurate, lightweight, liquid-filled, orienteering type compass, made by Silva, Inc., La Porte, Indiana. . . . An orienteering type compass is one in which the housing of the instrument revolves on a base plate that serves as a protractor and direction finder; the type takes all the guesswork out of direction finding. . . .

To use the "Huntsman" you momentarily disregard the instrument's magnetic needle while you turn the compass's revolving dial until desired direction of travel is indicated at an index pointer. (For example, if you want to walk "West," turn the dial until the letter "W" is at the direction-of-travel pointer.) You next turn the entire compass horizontally until its red-tipped magnetic needle is superimposed on an arrow outline on the base plate that indicates needle alignment with "North". Your direction of desired travel will automatically point true "West" in relation to true "North". Traveling in a straight line is easily accomplished by choosing successive landmarks in line with intended direction of travel, and walking to each. . . . The compass can either be held in your hand as you walk, or pinned to your jacket with a provided safety pin fastener. . . .

The "Huntsman" compass is made of brass-color anodized aluminum and plastic; its jeweled magnetic needle settles down to serious business inside five seconds. Luminous markings on degree-graduated dial and on the needle make night reading easy. Total weight is only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ounces. Closed, the instrument measures  $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{3}{8}$  inches.

You can also tell time with a "Huntsman" compass. Close the hinged section and you have a compass-watch that will tell you the approximate time of day.

There is also an inch (ruler) scale on the plate so that distances on maps may be accurately computed.

Price is \$5.95.

Write Silva, Inc., La Porte, Indiana, for a folder that illustrates and describes the instrument in detail. You will find it interesting reading, whether or not you already own a compass.

After long search, FWFT&T has found two much similar products that, while originally designed as knapsacks, can also be made to serve as hand and over-the-shoulder style packalls.

First is the #155 "Yosemite" model knapsack — 11 inches wide, 6 inches deep and  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches high — a European product marketed by Himalayan Pak Co., Inc., Box 1647, Monterey, California, and represented in Florida by Joe Webster, 101 Maplewood Ave., Clearwater.

This bag is of durable canvas, bound with leather-like material similar to that used to trim automobile seat covers. The main bellows compartment has drawstring closure at top, an easy access zipper on one side and a protective buckle-down flap. A smaller, separate, outside compartment has a full length zipper closure. The "Yosemite" bag comes with a padded shoulder harness that has quick release snaps. There is also a handle on the back of the bag for easy hand-carrying. Available colors include stone grey, blue and white, as well as Highlander red plaid.

The second product is the Gloy #62 German-made rucksack, imported by Gloy's Import Co., 11 Addison Street, Larchmont, New York, and distributed in Florida by Dick Linke, of Winter Park. This bag is much similar in size and features to the Himalayan Pak Company's importation.

Main differences are lack of side opening access to the bag's main section, lack of quick release snaps and more conservative use of plastic in respect to trim. The Gloy bag has the same strong construction, the same style of fold-over and buckle-down flap, hand-carrying handle and outside zippered compartment features as the rival "Yosemite" model. Color is slate grey.

Both bags can be quickly converted to over-the-shoulder style by substituting a web or leather strap for the shoulder harness. So used, the two products make almost perfect bags for hunters, fishermen and archers.

Both Himalayan and Gloy bags are of fairly recent introduction to Florida sportsmen; consequently, you might have to shop around to find them or write named representatives for Florida sources of supply. FWFT&T believes the described products are perfect for Florida sportsmen — especially in the smaller but roomy bellows design versions — specifically the Himalayan "Yosemite" #155, and the Gloy Import #62 Rucksack. Larger sizes, also available, are not as versatile in Florida service application as the two described. The smaller bags are also cheaper—less than ten dollars.



It seems that a constant search is going on to find good bags that fit sportsmen's specific needs. Fishermen, hunters, hikers, campers, motorcyclists and archers, all can use a light, well-made, roomy bag in which to carry miscellaneous equipment while engaged in a particular sports activity.



## SAFE OR SORRY?

(Continued from page 27)

cause danger exists whenever he hunts within range of a reckless hunter's gun.

There is growing sentiment that every young hunter applying for his first license should legally be required to have a background of firearms safety training, and that hunters of any age who are involved in reportable hunting accidents should not be permitted to purchase a license the following hunting season. Unless immediate steps are taken to reduce the number of hunting accidents, some say it will soon be too dangerous to go hunting.

Fortunately, something is being done to preserve hunting as a wholesome, recreational sport. In Florida, for example, a statewide public service safety program is now being sponsored jointly by the Game Commission, the National Rifle Association, Florida sportsmen's groups and civic-minded individuals.

Using a basic, but comprehensive, hunting safety instruction course originally formulated by the NRA in 1950 primarily for its member clubs the Florida Game Commission has declared an all-out and organized attack on the state's rising number of annual gun-handling accidents. To educate shooters to be personally safety conscious, free Hunter Safety courses under qualified instructors are being promoted on a statewide basis.

At present writing, more than three hundred persons in Florida are official NRA Hunter Safety Instructors. Each has had to pass a special written examination; all are volunteers. Prior to the adoption of an organized, statewide program, there were less than thirty NRA-certified instructors in the state.

In addition, Game Commission personnel, from the Director on down through the ranks, are taking the examination required for an NRA Hunter Safety Instructor's rating.

In support of the field work of volunteer instructors, generous radio, television and newspaper publicity is being given the statewide Hunter Safety program. Likewise, in many Florida counties, special Hunter Safety Councils are being formed to better promote the educational program on a local area level, and to see that it is correctly correlated with similar efforts elsewhere in the state. The Game Commission provides necessary teaching materials and works with councils in whatever capacity they desire.

Where local sponsors of hunter safety training need direct advisory assistance, or demonstrations by exceptionally qualified personnel, a special team of instructors is available for travel to any point in the state to lend a helping hand.

Several educational hunting safety films are available for free showing by clubs and firearms training clinics. "Trigger Happy Harry," a 16mm sound track film, can be had on loan from Sportsmen's Service Bureau,

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#### The Apalachicola Watershed: Part II

#### Bucks 'N' Bows

#### Fishing From "Little Bitty Boats"



"Hoist it up on my back Herb, and I'll carry it to the cabin for you!"

New York 17, also the film titled "Shooting Safety." The National Rifle Association, Washington, will gladly furnish a complete list of available training films.

As with automobile drivers, educators realize it is impossible to make all hunters 100% safe to themselves and others; the element of chance is always lurking in the background, and it is augmented when there are a large number of hunters afield. This is undoubtedly why most of the hunting accidents recorded annually take place during the first two weeks of the hunting season.

However, in states where firearms education has been given intensive promotion, statistics also show that a trained hunter is fourteen times less accident prone than an untrained hunter. It is the latter type who is most likely to injure himself and others.

As one Southern state game commission official recently said, "Hunting accidents are bad enough when they involve only the principals. They are even worse when they also strike with terrible impartiality at the innocent. A loving wife, a dependent child, all can have their happy lives disrupted as though by a lightning bolt."

Florida's rapidly growing resident population will almost surely result in a proportionate increase in the number of hunters seeking licenses this year. Your Game Commission — echoing the sentiments of your family and friends — wants you to return from hunting trips whole and hearty.

But hunting safety must begin with *you!* . . . Before going afield this year, qualify as a safe hunter by attending one of the many free Hunter Safety schools being sponsored. Encourage your hunting companions to take the short course with you. The training will be the best form of life insurance you can carry afield. ●

# QUESTION ? BOX



By CHUCK SHILLING

Address questions on fishing and boating to Question Box, FLORIDA WILDLIFE, Tallahassee, Fla.

Question: Everyone seems to have a different opinion about what color casting line to use. What do you say — all black, solid colors, or camouflage? G. Maddox, Tallahassee, Fla.

Answer: I say camouflage. By that, I mean a line of various colors or shades blending into each other. This is proper camouflage, which is intended to break up the outline of the object. Solid colors, black or otherwise, must have a similar background to be effective. This is seldom possible, as background color will change with almost every cast.

On my own reels, I use 12-pound test camouflage line, adding a length of 10-pound camouflage nylon as leader. I tie this on a "Keys Knot." The leader is just long enough to put the knot ahead of the level wind in the casting position. I try to match colors between line and leader to get a color blend at the leader knot.

Question: I've noticed for a long time you seldom miss a chance to take a slap at fishing contests. I've got a theory that you are a sore loser. How about it? Have you missed a big prize at one time or other?

Answer: Sorry to disappoint you. I've never entered a fishing contest. My long-time aversion to these affairs is based on my belief they are detrimental to the sport.

Question: I can't follow your reasoning when you say catching fish with live bait is less sporting than using artificial lures. If the sportsman takes no more than the legal limit, what's the difference? M. Scott, Tampa, Fla.

Answer: There is plenty of difference. Using your line of thought, why

not use trotlines, traps, seines — how about dynamite?

Question: I plan to visit North Florida for a fishing vacation this summer. I'm looking for pleasant surroundings and relaxed fishing on some water where the potential is good. I know this is a tricky question, but I will value your advice. What do you suggest? Chas. Morgan, Atlanta, Ga.

Answer: Glad you recognized the difficulty. North and Central Florida are loaded with excellent fishing spots that would fit your needs. My wife and I plan to spend some time this summer fishing just as you describe. We are going to "The Bass Capital Resort," Crescent City, Florida. This is on famous Crescent Lake. Write to Tex L'Argent who runs the place for further information. Perhaps we'll meet out on the dock some morning, but not too early.

Question: After a trip to the Bahamas, I cut a notch on the transom of my 15-foot outboard boat and have been attempting to use a long sculling oar. In the islands, it looked as easy as apple pie, but so far, all I've done is fall out of the boat half a dozen times. Sculling I am not. What am I doing wrong? A. Wilmot, Miami, Fla.

Answer: Your first mistake was not being born in the islands. I doubt if even the islanders could scull your planing boat. I'll guess the boats you saw being sculled were all displacement hulls. Even so, sculling as far as I am concerned is something you should learn as a child. I concentrate on calypso and find I'm much happier.

Question: I am surprised to find so many pictures in FLORIDA WILDLIFE

Magazine showing fishermen standing up in boats. This is in disregard of all published and acknowledged safety rules. On page 7 of the June issue, you show such a picture, holding that such action is "expert" behavior. I feel your publication should take a little more responsible view toward making boating safer. J. A. Erickson, Delray Beach, Fla.

Answer: The boat in the picture you mention is a fisherman's boat. The caster is standing on a casting deck, perfectly flat and half as big as a Ping-pong table. She couldn't be pushed overboard, much less fall. I've heard that old saw, "Don't stand up in the boat," all my life. Why not stand up? Safety afloat depends on two senses: common and balance. With these, standing up is perfectly safe. Without them, even staying in bed won't help.

Question: I am going to buy a fly rod for Florida bug fishing. What is best—a two or three piece rod?

M. Gephimer, Pensacola, Fla.

Answer: I would recommend a 2-piece, 8½-foot Fiberglas rod weighing about 4½ ounces. I doubt if you could find a suitable 3-piece bug rod on today's market. Bamboo and 3-piece rods went out of style a long time ago. If you intend to ship your tackle around a lot, a multiple section rod might suit your purpose best. Ease of packing is the 3-piece rod's only advantage. I have a 7½-foot, 4-piece, bamboo fly rod that has beautiful, dry fly action. This kind of rod is difficult to find today.

Question: I've been trying to decide the best way to use my kapok life preserver cushion should the occasion arise. Seems to me they would be pretty hard to hang onto if the chips were down. Is there a right way to use them?

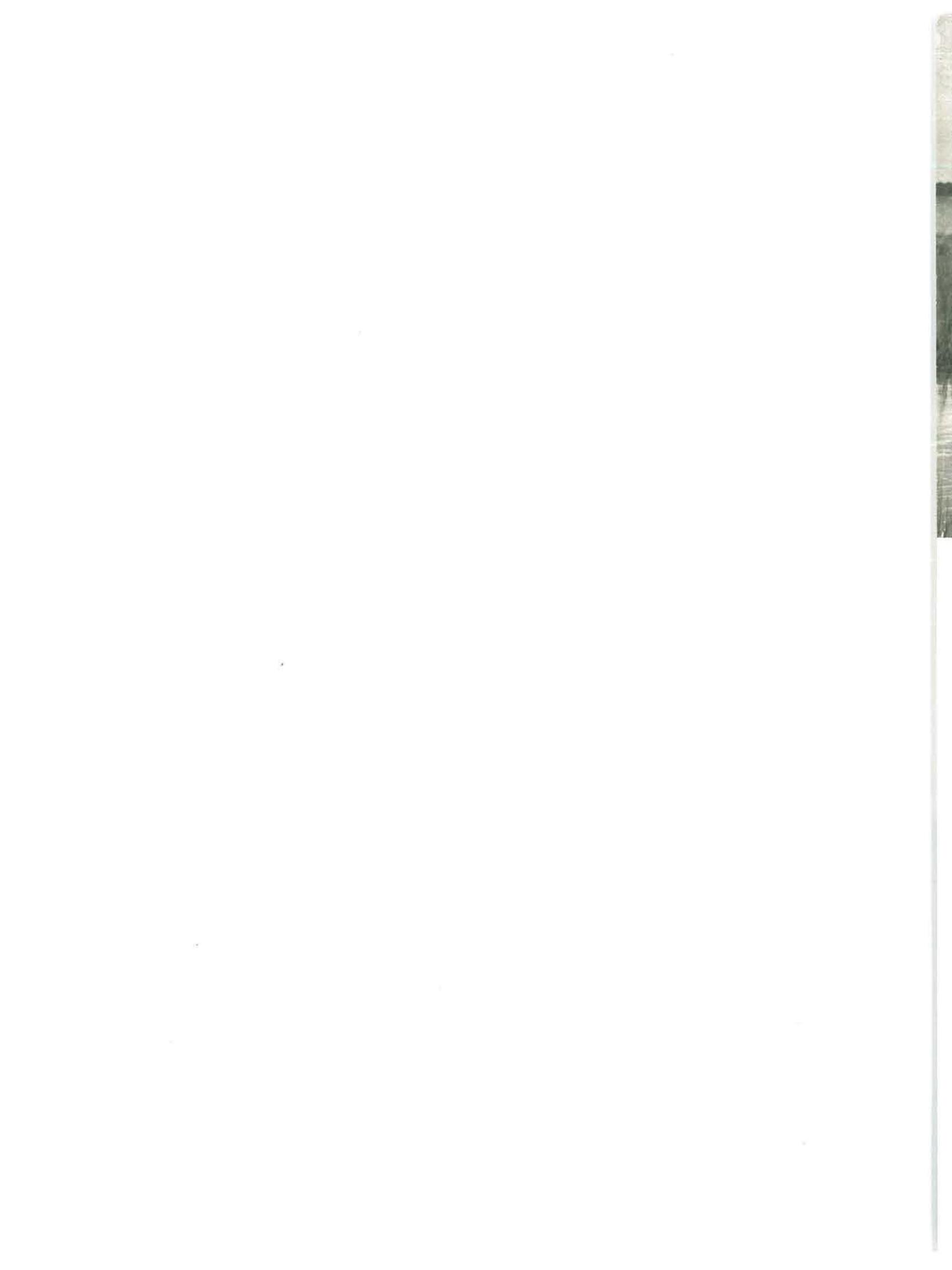
M. Lowering, Dunnellon, Fla.

Answer: The best life preserver cushions are the kind that have the flotation material sealed in airtight, plastic containers, three to a cushion. Proper way to use these cushions is to put a leg thru one cushion loop and put the other loop over the shoulder. In this position, the cushion is easily retained, and it will hold you upright in the water.

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MARSH HEN HUNTING—LANARK, FLORIDA

Commission Photo by Wallace Hughes

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